

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaastical Affairs.

WHERE ARE WE?

THE first impulse, perhaps, of the friends of religious equality has been to ask the above question with a somewhat bewildered air. The tide of battle has gone so decisively against them—against not them alone, but against the active army of Liberals of which they constituted, we may say, the left wing—the electoral defeat in which, to a certain extent, they share has been so unlooked-for, so sudden, so complete, all along the line; the Conservative majority is, at first sight, so powerful and so competent to gather up at leisure the fruits of its victory; that it can be hardly matter of surprise if they who had before them the largest and perhaps the remotest object of political enterprise should on being abruptly brought to a standstill inquire in their own behalf, “where are we?” Their position in regard to those with whom they had acted, as well as those against whom they had acted, is as yet but indistinctly discernible. They have not had time to disengage themselves from the debris of a party overthrow. They have to pause and reflect before taking the next step. They will do so, we do not doubt, with special reference to the end they have in view, rather than to the allies with whom they have acted. It must be recognised on all hands, we suppose, that the defeat in the consequences of which they are compelled to share, does not happen to be the result of any determination of theirs. They were not consulted in any way as to the expediency of the immediate dissolution of Parliament. As usual, their interests were not taken into account in the planning of efforts for giving success to which their co-operation was needed. It is not they, but the party with which they have co-operated, that must be credited with the overwhelming defeat which has been sustained. If the class has been “turned down,” it is owing entirely to the mistakes of those who have been at the head of it. The battle has been lost, not because Nonconformists have withheld their aid, but because Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet have miscalculated their strength. Whatever the adherents of religious equality have lost or won in the late contest, it cannot be imputed to them that they are responsible for the results, or that their desertion of the party has placed it where it is. The defeat is a general's defeat. They share in it, it is true,

but they have nothing, or very little, to do in having brought it about.

This leaves them all the more free to review their own position, and to mark out for themselves such a line of action as may best promote the object they have before them, without any scrupulous regard to the interests of the party with which it has been their wont hitherto to combine their movements. In many respects, it can hardly be doubted, it will even now be their inclination to make some sacrifice of their feelings with the hope of preserving unity of action. They are not the men who are likely to yield to the force of vindictive motives. They will not take any course merely to gratify political spite. But thus much, at all events, should be considered—they have been released, not by their own act, but by the decision of those whose lead they followed, from those more delicate ties which held them to the Liberal party. No hold has been retained by their leaders upon their services—no special hold we mean—no bond arising out of the smallest regard for their interests. We will not say that they were thrown overboard in the tactical experiment which has just been played out. All we have to say is that they were not considered. We do not even say that they were specially neglected, for they only shared the fate of the entire party, but we do contend that they are now free to look around them, and to select the line of policy which may appear to them most likely to conduct them to the end they have in view.

The first aspect of the present condition of affairs which will be likely to make a definite impression upon their minds is that the Conservative triumph is too large to admit of any present attempt to neutralise it in the House of Commons. Where new legislation is concerned, or where existing interests are menaced, it will, of course, be the imperative duty of the friends of religious equality to do their best in the way of self-defence. We do not anticipate that any serious aggressive movement will be made by the Conservative majority upon the position which they now enjoy. Possibly, in regard to the mode of applying University revenues to the furtherance of high education, and in the renewal of the Endowed Schools Act, some attempt will be made by Mr. Disraeli's Government to disparage by practical legislation the principle of religious equality, and it may become the duty of the earnest friends of that principle strenuously to exert themselves in resistance of such encroachment. But for the most part—at least, as far as Parliament is concerned—we should suggest that in quietness will be their strength. That will not be their most appropriate sphere for some time to come. *Il est defendu*, as the French say, for the present at any rate. What has to be done will have to be done chiefly outside the boundaries of this particular area.

We hope our readers will not regard this necessity as either a blighting or a cruel one. It will not, we apprehend, or surely it ought not, to damp their spirits. We have doubtless been surprised by the defeat which has seemed to overtake us, but if we have reason for astonishment, how much more reason for the emotion must they have who have, without the remotest reference to our wishes, involved us in their own overthrow. We may be amazed, but we have no ground for despondency. Our work for a short time will be elsewhere than it has

been, but unless we should neglect it for want of heart, it need not be less productive than it ever has been. We have to bear in mind that the great principle of religious equality remains just what it was; and, we may add, just where it was. It is not that principle which has been fought over during the late election, nor has it been in the slightest degree discredited by the result. Mr. Gladstone declined to identify himself with it, and Mr. Gladstone's name was inscribed upon the flag under which the contest was fought out. The hope of the Queen's Ministers appeared to be that a brilliant financial proposal would so far dazzle the eyes of the British people as to disqualify them for recognising the worth of great political principles. Happily, the British people declined to take the glittering bait. The truths in which we are most deeply interested are, as we have intimated, essentially unaffected by what has taken place. The position of those truths in the convictions of those who recognise their value is really what it was before. There may be—and most likely there is—a large balance of floating opinion which has gone over during the last few weeks or months to Conservatism, and of course, when the wind blows from an opposite quarter, it will come back to Liberalism. Of all the work formerly achieved by the disciples of religious equality, nothing has perished. For the future they will be less likely to encounter failure by resolving to work under other conditions. They have not yet taught the country the grand lesson which the country has to learn. They can do it—if they have manhood enough in them—and who can doubt it? They will do it. It is part of the course which they have always foreseen as inevitable. If they choose so to consider it, they may characterise it in their thoughts as the dark hour which precedes the dawn. But, assuredly, they have no reason for either general or special discouragement. A temporary change of position will not suggest to them a permanent change of object. They have a grand opportunity before them, and if they care to avail themselves of it, they will, in due time, share in a grand victory.

WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

THE overwhelming defeat of the Liberal party is inevitably productive of considerable recrimination amongst its various constituent elements. In a beaten army every officer compromised is naturally anxious to throw the blame on somebody else. And if some fiery Rupert can be convicted of following up a headlong charge in utter oblivion of the laggard caution of others, his jealous colleagues will in all probability complain more bitterly of him than of the coward who watches with excessive care the line of retreat. It is therefore no matter of surprise to us that superfine as well as weak-kneed Liberals should be turning upon Nonconformists with an “I-told-you-so” kind of air, and should be bemoaning the fate that has bound them to such dangerous allies. No sooner was the probable issue of the elections apparent than the weekly organ of moral Philistinism discovered that the wrath of the Nonconformists had proved far less hurtful than the suspicion of their support. And more recently we find the *Pall Mall Gazette* pronouncing a Jeremiah on the wickedness of the Dissenters in obtaining political influence under false pretences. “There is no reasonable doubt,” we are told, “that the chief and most permanent source of English Conservatism is the Church of England.” Ergo, says this

brilliant organ of cultured Liberalism, let us henceforth abjure all attacks upon the Establishment; let us cleanse ourselves from all suspicion of hostility to a political influence which "has been as fairly as it has been laboriously won." "The Dissenters, as a political organisation, have been greatly over-rated numerically." The inference is obvious. "It really becomes a question for the Liberal party how far it is worth its while to take colour with the sects in their attacks on the Established Church." In other words, ecclesiastical domination has proved for the moment stronger than the party of religious equality. Let us cast in our lot with the conqueror.

"Curramus praeceptis et
Dum jacet in ripa, calcemus Caesaris hostem."

Were we in an irritable mood, we might be disposed to follow a notable precedent, and exclaim, "For Heaven's sake, withdraw your support then!" But as we have a not unreasonable confidence that any hope of reconstituting the Liberal party on such terms must inevitably prolong the misfortune of Tory rule—which always grows more disastrous in a rapidly increasing ratio when it is continued for more than a year—we wish rather to take a calm and dispassionate view of the situation. And, first of all we frankly admit that there is considerable plausibility and some truth in the comments quoted above on the recent elections. In many great constituencies, as for example in Bradford, the Liberal party has usually consisted of a main body intelligently holding consistent principles, and of miscellaneous contingents who want progressive legislation in some things, but are very much afraid of carrying it too far. When there is any definite measure before the public, commended by a great consensus of opinion, as in the case of the Irish Church Act, these semi-attached allies will swell the Liberal majority. But when the issue is raised on the general tendency of legislation rather than on any particular measure, especially if that general tendency is believed to involve reforms denounced as revolutionary but not swept onwards by any tide of popular passion, these uncertain people, Liberals only in name, go over in a body to the opposite camp. That this effect has been produced here and there by the attitude of Nonconformists there can be little doubt. We are so far from being surprised at this, that we confidently point to it as an onward step in the winding and sometimes apparently returning path which leads religious equality to victory. Our readers know well enough how often we have predicted that the more passionate resistance engendered by the prospect of success would from time to time inflict temporary defeats which would apparently throw us back. But this has been the history of every great measure that has at all seriously modified the forms of our national life. Peel's majority in 1841 might well be supposed to scatter to the winds all hope of free trade. But the inevitable hour arrived nevertheless. More than once in the history of the Church-rate controversy the organs of Conservatism or of Palmerstonian Liberalism pointed to gradually decreasing majorities in the Commons as a proof of the reaction engendered by Nonconformist persistence. But our confidence in the ultimate prevalence of justice was not the less justified by the event. It is scarcely likely that we should feel much discomfort now under a repetition of the same experience.

We are, however, not in the least degree inclined to that sort of "happy despatch" to which as a party we are invited by our angry companions in defeat. Surely we may without any perversity draw an inference somewhat different from that of the *Pall Mall Gazette* from the one fact which it regards as established by the Liberal collapse. When the Germans came to the conclusion that Metz was the key of the enemy's position, they did not proceed to the inference that they should therefore let it alone. Nor were they content with making it while they marched on Paris. On the contrary, they spared an army to master the place. But our Liberal strategists, having arrived at the conviction that "the chief and most permanent source of English Conservatism is the Church of England," proceed immediately to the strange inference that they had better leave it on one side, and rush forward to "more promising fields of action." Now apart altogether from our vote in the matter, they cannot do so, however much they may wish it. And the principal hindrance is the attitude of the clergy themselves. Whatever may be the cause—whether they see that disestablishment is involved in any large policy of justice, and therefore distrust every measure that commends itself simply by its equity; or whether they think that old-fashioned custom is the best bulwark of religion; or whether they see nothing, but act blindly according to a brute

instinct of self-preservation; certain it is that they have found, and always will find, their natural allies in the Conservative party. Hear Mr. Millbank in the North Riding, a Churchman, Liberal in his politics, and true to his party whatever the interests of the Episcopal Church can be served. "I believe that in the North Riding of Yorkshire there are nearer 700 than 800 clergymen. How many of these clergymen do you think I polled at the last election? I am over the mark when I say not ten of these gentlemen voted for me. Now I would like to ask those gentlemen, what assistance have I given to your Church in the North Riding?" But no matter what he did for their Church, he is a Liberal in politics; and that is enough to set 99 out of every 100 clergymen against him. What hope is there of leaving the Establishment on one side, when such is the attitude of the clergy towards the mildest Liberals? But then we are told it is all our fault, because we assume a position to which our numbers give us no claim. "At the bottom of the Nonconformist disaffection," it is said, "is a false impression of strength traceable to the silence of the census returns on one of the most important points of national statistics." What have national statistics to do with our individual convictions concerning the relation of the soul to God? The proper subject of national statistics is national material resources. And amongst these may fairly be reckoned the buildings actually devoted to public religious instruction. By all means let these be numbered and measured. We shall be only too glad to hear the result. But neither sneers nor curses will ever induce us to stultify ourselves by consenting to make individual religious opinion the subject of an imperial census. In vain half-hearted Liberals fret and fume. If they can reconstitute the Liberal party without the Nonconformists, let them do it. If not, and if they are not prepared to maintain the Establishment on grounds of principle, for very shame, let them show the courage of their convictions.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE "Mission," so-called, is ended, and we have had various descriptions of it in the Church and daily journals. The result is that, as a manifestation, it failed in some districts and succeeded in others. A Church correspondent of the *Times* states that the Nonconformists sneered at it, but this was certainly not the attitude assumed in this journal. We can quite believe that it has effected a certain amount of good—that in Great Windmill-street, for instance, it may have recovered many from vice, and that in many other districts it has for a time strung up men to a more self-denying life. We do not deny this. We do not even doubt it. But the question has to be asked—Why such services should be considered to be so very extraordinary? One would imagine that in a Church appointed by the State to convert everybody to Christianity—we mean, of course, real Christianity—services like those which have just taken place would be a familiar and common thing. In fact, daily service is ordered by one of the canons, but that canon, in common with many others, is disobeyed. The way to look at it is this: the clergy are paid to do their utmost in the way of promoting Christian religion, and they only do their utmost in the case of a "Mission." If they were to do as they should do, the Mission would last all the year round.

The doctrinal standards and foundations of the Established Church are of such a peculiar character that, like decisions in courts of law, as much can be quoted from one as from the other side. Thus we find in the *Guardian* of last week an indignant letter on the late *Quarterly Review* article, concerning Sacardotalism. The writer quotes, from the article in question, the words, "This confession and absolution, it is asserted far and wide, are absolutely necessary to the forgiveness of post baptismal guilt. In other words, those who are not thus absolved are excommunicated. Their sins are not forgiven." Commenting upon this, the writer goes on to ask whether people are to receive such an assertion on the *Quarterly's* own authority. "I challenge him," he adds, "to produce a single divine, living or departed, who either is, or is likely to become, a standard authority with any section of the Church, who has ever been known to teach this monstrous doctrine." Now, comically enough, the answer to this is to be found in the same number of the *Guardian*. There is a manual of confession, edited by a committee of clergy, and well known, from which the following, sent by a contributor, are extracts:—

It is the priest, and to the priest only, that a child must acknowledge his sins, if he desires that God

should forgive him. . . . You must tell the priest all (the italics are in the original) the sins that you remember to have committed. God absolutely requires this (these italics are mine). If, through pride or shame, you were so unhappy as to hide a sin on purpose, my poor child, you would commit a very grave fault; you would make a bad confession. Not only your sins would not be forgiven you, but you would be a hundred times more guilty than before. You had better not confess at all than make such a bad and sacrilegious confession. I have known poor children who concealed their sins in confession for years. They were very unhappy, were tormented with remorse, and if they had died in that state, they would certainly have gone to the everlasting fires of hell.

Yes, that is the teaching in some portion of the Established Church at the present day.

We have found another illustration of the same feeling in another Church journal, where a correspondent states that a member of his choir has been receiving the communion until it came out that—he had never been baptized. Horrible! What was to be done with such a man? Of course he was baptized instantly, but the question arises whether he ought not also to be confirmed? This question is put to the learned doctors of the Church, and is esteemed to be worth their consideration even in the midst of the "Mission" against sin and infidelity. Why did not some of the preachers at the Mission services enlarge upon such points? Is it because when they found themselves face to face with sinful people they dared not?

It is sometimes of use to know the opinions of people who obviously care nothing about either Church or Dissent upon the subjects that are debated in the columns of both Church and Nonconformist journals. We have read therefore with some interest two papers in the *Temple Bar* magazine of the present month. The first is an imitation of the *Satires* of Juvenal—very well done—by Mr. Edwin Heron, a name that we are sorry to say is new to us. Better classical scholars than we are tell us that the imitation of Juvenal is almost perfect, but we do not say so ourselves. However, Juvenal in London, as he must, deals rather strongly with the Church. We cannot quote all that he says, because it would fill a column, but some lines are perhaps worth repeating. Such, for instance, as these:—

What is the union of your Church and State?
Your priests are merely lackeys of the great.
Your bishop is a prince, a lord, a peer,
A man of several thousand pounds a year,
Whom kindly Providence permits to live
A copious family, and make it thrive.
Chosen to fill his see on no pretence
Of courage, foresight, learning, eloquence:
A schoolmaster, an ignorant cadet,
A priest with kinsfolk near the Cabinet,
A pompous don, of kindly, stupid face,
These, Paul and Peter! occupy your place.
There, though we miss the groaning voice of Trench,
One Irish howl still issues from the bench.

Then comes:—
Not a word
For justice, right, and truth is ever heard
From that Right Reverend Bench, on whose soft perch
Rejoice the fine lines of the English Church.
They know it; grateful Eliott displays
The saintly gifts for which the nation pays,
When, raising up his apostolic hand,
He spoke in scorn of those who own no land,
Blessed the good food, consigned the poor to God,
And mindful of the child, spared not the rod;
Bade the bluff farmers try the good old rule
And duck their critics in the nearest pool;
Those evil men who seek to cut the knot
Which ties the peasant to his wretched lot.
Such speeches, if that peasant ever sees,
How must he bless that prelate on his knees,
And thank the destiny which lets him live
Where farmers hear the advice which bishops give!

Skiping a little, we come upon the satirist's next vein:—
In the prim kirk, where all that meets the view
Is the vast pulpit and primeval pew,
Chanting an ode for a homely
Dean Stanley pipes of peace and amity,
Ignores all creeds, demands but one assent,
Maintains no tenet but the Establishment;
Welcomes each sabbat with a gracious smile—
Pusey, Colenso, Bennett, Voysey, Ryle;
Bids them avoid each others' throats, and be
That work of art, "a happy family";
Bids them relinquish all sectarian rage,
Endure each other, but adore the cage;
Bids them no longer snarl and snarl and bark,
But make the English Church like Noah's ark;
Where all were safe, and where the patriarch stored
Good food and plenty for the beasts on board,
Clean and unclean, gave every one his dele,
And kept them strong and sound, and sleek and whole.
"Think as you please—the deluge is outside;
Let others battle with the roaring tide.
Your business only is, to save your skin,
And your best policy, to keep within.
What though the craft be crazy? She may last.
Have every stitch of sail in by the mast;
Don't rouse the notice of the angry storm
By any rag of dogma, creed, or form;
Of charity and comprehension preach.
Your aim must be to win and not to teach;
By art, by music, seek to gain assent,
Be learned, vague, descriptive, eloquent.
Some man, as Rainey is, are over nice.
Our motto runs: For peace at any price.
A church as broad as this is should and can
Win to its interest every prudent man;

And if some grumbling cynic should be near Who asks, *Cui bono?* whisper in his ear, 'Tis a police, which at the worst will keep Some people quiet, and will do it cheap.'

So pipes your Stanley, but he pipes in vain.

Another article in the same serial deals with the Ideal of a National Church, which is certainly not reached at present. But it is something to read, of the Church of the present day, language such as this:—

For the institution, for the Church, for the maintenance of its worldly dignity, Episcopacy is beyond all question the better. The actual work of governing will be done by each form with precise equality; there is not a pin's-fee to choose between them. But if you refuse to think of the sufferings, sorrows, and disappointments of the individual clergyman, and think only of the worldly glory and standing of the Church, you will declare for Episcopacy. For you will attract men of greater talent and higher social standing to the clerical office. They will come, hoping to draw prizes. They will probably draw blanks; but then they are in and cannot get out; and the institution gets the good of their services. And then, in a hierarchical Church, you are not sure, till you die, but what you may get a prize after all. The other day we saw an eminent man, long passed by, made a bishop at the age of seventy. Of course it was a great shame; but still it was done. Not but the good man deserved the dignity; but he was past; it was too late. However, there he is, and his grandchildren will be able to say that he was a bishop. We must, in considering the matter, remember that the inhabitants of Great Britain are in great measure what Mr. Thackeray called "snobs." They reverence a dignity; and a bishop is a dignity. The fourpenny piece has managed somehow to get itself stamped as a sovereign; and it passes as such. An archbishop takes precedence of a duke. Such a man as Chalmers, albeit greater than half-a-dozen archbishops rolled into one, is yet, through lack of social prestige, liable to be patronised by a squire, or a member of Parliament, or a small peer; but men and women, old and young, kotoo to the archbishop, *His Grace*. And from the commonplace mortal, thus invested with a halo of glory (especially in the eyes of such as do not know him), a dignity is reflected on the humblest cleric or layman in his communion. Seldom have I witnessed greater elation, than in a snob relating that the Bishop of Beverley preached to him last Sunday: unless in a silly woman relating how his lordship put on his lawn sleeves in her parlour. Even the plated article, a Brummagem Scotch bishop, with his three hundred a year, the son of a Dissenting preacher, with no qualifications in soul or body, has to some a certain flavour of dignity. He rules over eighteen poor fellows of unendowed parsons, and his communion represents one and a half per cent. of the population of that bleak country (Samaria); yet though the clock-face has no works behind it, it is a clock-face: and with that some are content. There is nothing to hinder a little Scotch bishop from dressing as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury, except the obvious difficulty of paying his tailor's bill.

I do not plead for Episcopacy on high grounds: anything but that. I make mention simply of the dignity that surrounds it in the eyes of a snobbish generation. The biggest Presbyterian clergyman, Chalmers or Guthrie, is a man for a country gentleman to honour by asking him to his house. He walks into dinner behind the shabbiest Honourable. The son of a Dissenting tradesman, when made an archbishop, walks before a duke. The fourpenny piece passes current for five pounds. Take any mortal, of good appearance and common sense: place him on that elevation, give him that rank and income, and most men and women will humbly bow to him. And in truth, the man is exceptional in good luck, however commonplace in his nature. A National Church, without an hierarchy, can not socially hold its place in an aristocratic country. So, in our Ideal National Church, let us have archbishops and bishops. They will not impose upon people of sense. But then most people are fools.

We imagine that this is the general opinion upon such subjects amongst those who certainly do not care much for the Establishment. To what will this opinion grow? The danger is, as it was in Veltaire's time, that contempt of forms may end in contempt of religion.

We are enabled to give, so far as can be ascertained, the nett results of the recent elections in respect to the question of religious equality. Of the members who supported Mr. Miall's motions of 1871 and 1873, seven had either retired or were dead at the close of the last Parliament, some eighteen other members did not offer themselves for re-election, and some twenty-two were rejected. These are large allices to take from an independent division, but we are glad to say that some sixty-two old members who supported Mr. Miall have been returned, and that more than twenty new members pledged to disestablishment are also returned. In fact, we have lost less in proportion than the Liberal party as a whole. But, even if we had lost altogether, we should have kept our flag where it is, and where it will always be—at the top of the pole.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY'S TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

Next Wednesday the Council of the Liberation Society is to meet in London for the purpose of determining the constitution of the society's Triennial Conference which will be held this year, and is fixed for the first Tuesday and Wednesday in May, the 5th and 6th. The circular issued to

the members of the council states that the Executive Committee will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the meeting for giving information respecting the results of the general election, and their bearing on the society's future work.

MR. MORLEY, M.P., ON THE CHURCH QUESTION AND EDUCATION.

At one of the Liberal meetings in Bristol, before the election, Mr. Morley spoke at some length on ecclesiastical questions. The report of his remarks has been excluded by more pressing matter, but being of more than ephemeral interest, we now give it:—He had been from his birth a Nonconformist. (Cheers.) He was unable to remember the time when he did not believe that religion was injured and not promoted by the interference of the civil power; and, therefore, he had never hesitated to say that he believed it would be a happy day for this country, in regard to its religious interests, when that question should be clearly and definitely settled. (Hear, hear.) At the election in 1868, he said on many occasions that he declined to present himself as a Nonconformist—he meant that he came forward as an English citizen—(Hear, hear)—never concealing the fact, in the slightest degree, of his Nonconformist preferences, but not choosing to be regarded as sent to the House of Commons—especially from a city like Bristol—merely as a Nonconformist. He also disavowed a disposition to enter into active hostility against the Established Church. He opposed those results of an establishment which pressed upon the consciences of Englishmen in the shape of what they called Dissenting grievances, and he was actively connected with the Liberation Society in efforts to get rid of those causes of heart-burning and all differences. Now they had got rid of all of those with one exception, and that was the question of burial. He claimed for Englishmen the right of burial in the churchyards where there was no public cemetery and no other means of interment. He said that inasmuch as the churchyards of England belonged to the English people, the people ought to have a right of burial in those churchyards, and the right to exercise, under fair and reasonable limits—and that he fully conceded—their own religious observances at their respective funerals. (Cheers.) This point respecting burial being conceded, he insisted that the question of the National Church ceased to be a Dissenting question; it became in the strictest and broadest sense a national question, and therefore he declined to regard the matter as one with which he, more than his Church neighbour, really had to do, though willing and anxious to enter with him into a calm, earnest, thoughtful discussion upon that question. The one point to which reference was often made was as to the social aspect of Church and Dissent. He did not regard that as of the slightest moment. He, in common with many gentlemen who were present, was conscious that instances were frequent enough that for a man to be a Nonconformist was to pay a social price for his Nonconformity. That price he was perfectly willing to pay, because it had nothing whatever to do with the conscience. At the time of the last election he called upon the Rev. Canon Girdlestone. (Cheers.) The point really laid in a nutshell. He wrote a letter to Canon Girdlestone, in which he disavowed any desire to enter into active hostility against the Established Church. He stated with the greatest distinctness what he had stated on that occasion, but he disavowed any intention or any wish, as he did that night, to do any other than promote such an action of public opinion as would deal most effectively with this question: Another statement to which reference had often been made was, that he should be indisposed to lift a little finger in the way of hostility to the Church. That was also true. He had no better belief in that mode of dealing with this question, because he believed then, as he did now, that the question of National Church was being settled within the Church; for there was action going on within the Church which, if it pursued the course it was evidently now taking, could not fail before long to excite public attention upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) The first question that came before the House of Commons bearing upon this matter was Mr. Miall's motion with a view to the disestablishment of the Church of England, and he confessed to them that he felt, in common with many members who voted for the motion, a great doubt indeed about the wisdom of the motion. It was impossible for him to mention Mr. Miall's name—he had been for many years a close personal friend of his—without expressing his admiration of the devotion which he had exhibited to the one subject of his life, the question of State Churches. In saying what he was going to say it merely involved a difference of opinion with Mr. Miall and many friends, as to the wisdom, so soon after the settlement of the Irish Church question, of bringing forward the question of the disestablishment of the Church of England. Because though undoubtedly, as far as the question of Establishment went, the cases might be analogous, yet there was scarcely any other analogy between the two Churches. He could wish there existed amongst many Nonconformist churches the same amount of earnest work which was to be found in very many of the churches of the Establishment. (Hear, hear.) He had to decide as to his supporting that motion of Mr. Miall. Now, his judgment and conscience were clearly in accord with the terms of the motion,

But he did think it inexpedient to bring it to an issue at that time. And an honourable friend, not long since deceased—a thorough Nonconformist in the House—he should not be breaking any confidence if he mentioned that it was the late Mr. Winterbotham, who loss they all so greatly lamented—(Hear, hear)—held that view; he had conversed with Mr. Winterbotham more than once on the subject, and Mr. Winterbotham never supported the motion in the House, his idea being to have moved the previous question simply to express the opinion that it was inexpedient to bring it forward then. (Hear, hear.) In connection with his (the speaker's) letter to the Rev. Canon Girdlestone, he had to consider whether he should vote for the motion or not vote. On that question—so far as this expression of opinion was concerned—not having anything to do with the bringing forward of the motion, he felt constrained either to vote for it or against it. He decided to vote in favour of Mr. Miall's motion. (Hear, hear.) He had written his letter to the Rev. Canon Girdlestone with no idea whatever of influencing votes at the election—(Hear, hear)—but to put it clearly and distinctly, and to avoid the conflict which he believed would be less likely to secure a settlement of that great question than leaving it to the ordinary discussion amongst their various circles, and avoiding the pressure of it in the House of Commons. In connection with that point was one which had lately been made the ground of attack upon him in reference to the property of the Established Church. Very recently there was an article in the *Times* and *Mirror* charging him with having expressed an opinion before the Church-rate Committee of the House of Lords in favour of taking possession of the entire of the endowments of the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) Now the very opposite of that was the fact. (Cheers.) He would, with their permission, read a few words inserted by a friend unknown to him in a recent number of the *Nonconformist*. Mr. Touchstone, a lecturer of the Church Defence Society, had mentioned to some one at Sheffield that a church recently endowed by a merchant at Sheffield would be taken possession of by the State in the event of disendowment, and he added the words that Mr. Morley said so; and he justified that in a subsequent lecture by giving an answer which he made before the Church-rate Committee, and he was made to say that many Dissenters believed that the property of recent endowments would be taken possession of by the State, but he omitted to read the subsequent answer, which he would, with their permission, read to them. The Marquis of Salisbury, who was upon that committee, said in Question 726, "With regard to another species of Church property—namely, endowments for district churches—do you think them applicable to any other purpose than the support of the Established Church?" That was in 1852. He (Mr. Morley) said, "I have the strongest impression that an endowment formed by private beneficence ought to be held sacred; money, for instance, put in trust by anyone for the purposes of the Church of England." (Cheers, uproar, and cries of "Turn him out.") He thought it should be held sacred for such purposes. The question was then put, "Then you confine the right of taking the endowments of the Church to those endowments which came to them at the Reformation?" His answer was that property which came from the Roman Catholics, and was diverted to the Episcopal Church, or national purposes in connection with the Episcopal Church, ought to be dealt with in one of two ways—either returned to those from whom it was taken—(cheers)—or used by the nation according to its judgment. (Cheers.) But everything in the shape of endowment especially appropriated to the Episcopal Church should be held sacred to the purposes of that Church. (Cheers.) He desired then to make a brief reference to the Education Bill. (Hear, hear.) He believed that bill had secured them an immense progress in the direction of educating the people, but it needed serious and important changes before it could be acceptable to the nation. (Hear, hear.) The 25th clause was a clause by which power was given to compel the parents to send a child, but gave the parent the choice of school. Now that clause passed without a division in the House of Commons. It was felt to be a triumph of religious freedom for the parent to be able to choose the school. (Hear, hear.) But the working of it had been mischievous—it had compelled the payments for the education of the child in denominational schools, and he was prepared, therefore, distinctly to support the repeal of that clause. (Loud cheers.) It was essential, however, that they should find some mode of meeting the difficulty in connection with the payment for the education of such child. He believed that the suggestion made by Mr. Bright was a wise one, and ought to be enforced—where enormous grants were given to those denominational schools out of the Consolidated Fund there should be the power to compel the admission free of a certain proportion of children to each of those schools. (Applause.) He was an advocate for the largest possible extension of school boards. (Cheers.) They were representative bodies through which the public sentiment of the neighbourhood would find utterance, and in a very large number of cases would be of unspeakable value in securing the rights of conscience to the parents of the children, and he also thought that they would act wisely in instituting a school board school in every large district; that there should be what he should call a school of refuge for parents who did not wish to send their children to denominational schools within

a reasonable distance from every cottage. (Cheers.) He had received a note in which he was told that Tory canvassers were going about with a report that he was opposed to the Bible. (Cries of "Shame" and hisses.) He had learnt from his earliest youth to reverence the Word of God—(applause)—he believed it to be the most wonderful book ever written, and he believed it would be far more wonderful if it could be proved to be uninspired than it was as an inspired volume, for it was unlike all human productions. (Cheers.) It had been the guide of his life from his youth up. (Cheers.) He believed most thoroughly in its teaching, and he was thankful to know, from a large amount of personal observation, that it was the desire of an immense proportion—he did not say of all—of their working population to have their children taught simply from the Word of God—(Hear, hear)—but they insisted upon not having their children made use of to swell denominations. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the people desired that the Bible should be used fairly, not twisted to sectarian objects, but used fairly in the teaching of the schools. (Cheers.) He tried his hand some months ago at some suggestions to meet the difficulty, with a view to a proper solution of how they could have religious teaching in the national schools of the country. He did not mean the schools of the Church of England, but the people's schools. (Hear, hear.) He was willing to try whether some suggestions could be offered by which the difficulty could be overcome. He believed that it would be overcome by the common sense of the people—(Hear, hear)—and it behoved them all to think less of their own special preferences and more of what would meet the real honest desire of the great masses of the people. (Cheers.) He had observed that the chairman had spoken during the recent school board election of his belief that the British system seemed to provide a remedy for the difficulty. He believed, with some modification, the British school system would be satisfactory to many, though it clearly would not be to all. (Hear.) But they must be prepared to make some concessions if ever they were to arrive at a decision which would exclude sectarianism and be adapted to all people. (Hear, hear.)

THE OLD DODGE.—On Sunday a pastoral was read in the Catholic churches of Cavan from the bishop, the Rev. Dr. Conaty, in which he says:—"Let us with one voice demand the establishment of a Parliament in College-green, where Irish ideas, Irish interests, and Irish just claims, will be respected and legislated for."

REFUSING TO INSTITUTE A CLERGYMAN.—The *Guardian* states that the Bishop of Lincoln has been served with a writ of *quære impedit* for refusing to institute a clergyman to the living of Great Coates, in his diocese, the clergyman in question having purchased the life interest in the advowson of Sir John Sutton, Bart., and now proposing to take the first presentation for himself on the vacancy made by the death of the late incumbent, the Rev. H. Houson.

SUNDAY EXCURSION TRAFFIC ON THE LONDON, DOVER, AND CHATHAM LINE.—At the half-yearly meeting of this company on Thursday, the motion to discontinue the Sunday excursion system was again discussed, and carried by a majority of those present. The chairman interfered with the statement that the board had sufficient proxies to ensure its rejection—14,000 against 8000—and would feel bound to use them if it were pressed. The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

MR. GLADSTONE'S CHURCH APPOINTMENTS.—Six clergymen of the Isle of Wight put out the following declaration during the election:—"We, the undersigned, clergymen residing in the neighbourhood of Shanklin, desire it to be understood that one principal reason which induces us at this election to exert our influence in favour of Mr. Baillie Cochrane, is that, as Protestant Churchmen, we may record our solemn protest against the encouragement which has been given to sacerdotalism in the Church of England by the majority of Mr. Gladstone's church appointments." Strangely enough, Mr. Cochrane's opponent was a son of Lord Shaftesbury, who might be supposed to hold sufficiently decided views in the same direction.

ROMAN CATHOLIC REFUSAL OF BURIAL.—The Rev. Michael Cuffe, one of the Roman Catholic chaplains to Her Majesty's forces at Chatham, lately refused to say the prayers of the Church at the funeral of a non-commissioned officer who happened to be a Freemason. He thus justifies the refusal in a letter to the *Times*:—"The Catholic Church does not allow her clergy to read the Burial Service over the bodies of those who die out of her communion. On this account I was obliged to decline attending the funeral of the late Armourer-Sergeant Johnston, who died on the 29th ult. He died a Freemason. No Freemason is a Catholic. No Catholic can be a Freemason; the moment he becomes one he secedes from his Church. I have already given this explanation to the military authorities of the Chatham garrison on my declining to attend the funeral of the late Sergeant Johnston, and I believe it has been accepted as satisfactory."

A CONSECRATED MORTUARY-CHAPEL ABOUT TO BE USED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES.—The *West Surrey Times* reports that the Dorking Burial Board has just given permission to its chairman, the vicar of the parish, and a High Churchman, to hold Sunday services in the mortuary chapel on the consecrated side of the cemetery, which services are to com-

mence on Sunday next. No objection, it appears, was offered by the Nonconformist members of the board to this novel appropriation of a building erected solely for the purpose of the rites of sepulture, and contributed to out of the poor-rates by Nonconformist and Conformist. Our contemporary speaks of a contemplated application by the Independents, Baptists, and Wesleyans for the use of the unconsecrated chapel for a similar purpose. We believe, however, that at present, at least, there is no foundation for such a statement. Such a "levelling up" to counterpoise this new phase of church extension would be hardly less objectionable than the innovation which provoked it. It is only right to add that the board is to incur no expense by the services referred to, and that the permission for holding them is to extend only till the expiration of the official year of the board.

THE REVISION OF THE BIBLE.—A correspondent of a contemporary writes:—"The scholars and theologians who are revising the authorised version of the Scriptures do not expect to get through their work in less than six years. They are adopting as nearly as possible the arrangements which were in force when the last translation was made—that of the time of James I., which we now use. No public funds have been voted to them, but they expect to receive ample pecuniary compensation for their labours by selling the copyright of the new version. Already they have received one offer for a large amount. One of the most indefatigable of the translators is Dr. Ginsburg, who was formerly a Liverpool clergyman, but of late years has not done clerical duty. He is of German extraction, and is a very accomplished scholar. He has a most valuable library, containing some very rare and priceless Bibles. He lives not far from Ascot, and lately refused an offer which Mr. Walter, proprietor of the *Times*, made to him, to build him a house near Bearwood. Dr. Ginsburg's is, however, within driving distance of Bearwood, and also of the charming residence which Mr. Delane, editor of the *Times*, has at Ascot, and the literary gatherings which meet at Dr. Ginsburg's are exceedingly pleasant. The preliminary work of revising the Old Testament is done by this gentleman, and his work is then submitted to the other members of the 'company.' The harmony which has prevailed among them has been most admirable. There have, I believe, been few differences of opinion on points of criticism, and such as have arisen have in no way impaired the good feeling which has been maintained from the beginning of this enterprise, and which there is every reason to hope will continue to the end."

Religious and Denominational News.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION LECTURES.

"THE ULTIMATE PRINCIPLE OF PROTESTANTISM."

Exeter Hall was well filled on Monday evening week, when the Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham, lectured on the above subject. Mr. John Gurney Hoare occupied the chair, and prayer was offered by the Rev. James Sewell. The lecturer, who was very cordially received, commenced by remarking that a great change seemed to have passed over the spirit and temper of the English nation in respect to its opinion of Roman Catholicism. For some 300 years antagonism to it had been regarded as one of the most powerful elements of our national life, and Popish pretensions and doctrines were regarded as too absurd for discussion. He had not time to discuss the causes of this great change, but the use of crucifixes as common ornaments, the service of hundreds of churches formed on the type of Romanism, the doctrine of the Real Presence taught from many Anglican pulpits, and the sacrifice of the mass spoken of where we were accustomed to hear of the Lord's Supper and the Holy Communion, and the practice of confession, all indicated that the old hostility to Rome was passing away. The influence of Luther and Calvin is now regarded as a calamity, and a large and increasing party are trying to undo the work of the Reformation, while their efforts invoke no opposite power, and their doctrines and practices, if condemned at all, are condemned but faintly, even by the bishops of our Protestant Church. "If I was an English politician and nothing more, this singular change in the spirit of the nation would awaken my deep concern. It is true that the foundations of England's greatness were laid before the Reformation; but the true glory of this nation began with its great controversy with Rome. It was during that struggle in the reign of Elizabeth and during the Commonwealth that the fiery hatred of the English people was shown against Popery. It is seen in our national literature. Shakespeare and Milton were Protestant, and our chief statesmen were so likewise. If England ceases to be Protestant the change will affect the chief monuments of our literature, and involve a revolution in our national life. That life so rich, so deep, so robust, will for ever have passed away if the nation cease to be Protestant. As an Englishman I cannot contemplate it without perplexity and dismay. What she may become I cannot tell; but what she has been during the long years of our loyalty to Protestantism I know, and God forbid that that magnificent history should come to its close. The chief differences between Protestantism and Romanism

are not in the mere creeds, there is one great and vital principle which underlies all the external differences between them. In the theology, discipline, and form of worship of Rome, this principle is systematically violated. Various answers might be given to the question, What is the ultimate principle of Protestantism? Some may answer, it is the right of private judgment; some that the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants. The theologians of Germany say that the principle of Protestantism consists in the sole authority of Holy Scripture and its material principle in the doctrine of justification by faith. I think two principles underlie them all—the right of private judgment and the authority of Holy Scripture. But the right of private judgment can only be rightly exercised upon ascertained facts, and no one is at liberty to think as he pleases about religion or any other subject, but must be governed by the facts. There is an ambiguity in the phrase 'freedom of thought' which is misleading. Strictly speaking, thought is free only where we are quite ignorant. Where knowledge begins freedom of thought ceases. Christianity insists on faith as the supreme duty of men, and the reformers never intended to maintain the right to doubt. What is the real nature of this right of private judgment, and on what does it rest? Protestants affirm and defend this right of private judgment on religious grounds because it is necessary to the discharge of a great religious duty. God has revealed Himself to us in many forms, but chiefly in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the great controversies with Rome turns upon the point whether that revelation is a revelation to the individual human soul or not. Protestants hold that it is, and that every man is at liberty to see for himself the wonderful works and to hear the words of the Lord. The appeal which He makes is to me, and if priest, or council, or Pope thrust themselves between me and God, I revolt. And if it is objected that there are parts of that revelation hard to be understood, we believe that every man may have the illumination of the Holy Spirit to guide him into the truth, and that it is not limited to priests and bishops. But it may be said that Protestants put a Book between the soul and God. When the mighty spirit of the Reformation had spent itself there was a disposition to put an infallible Book in the place of an infallible Church, and many perils have come from that error. The lecturer, confining himself to the New Testament, proceeded to show that it was in reality no obstacle between the human soul and God, but that the personality of the writers was entirely forgotten in the interest of the records, and that the experience of every Christian man testified to himself of their truth. Direct access of the soul to God is the ultimate principle of Protestantism—it was the principle for which the Reformers contended and for which we must now struggle, relying not on human Governments, but on the power of truth itself. The lecturer resumed his seat amid much applause, and the meeting separated after the singing of the Doxology.

"JUDAS MACCABEUS."

The concluding lecture of the course was delivered last Monday evening by the Rev. Gordon Calthrop, M.A., on "Judas Maccabeus: his Life and Times." Mr. Geo. Hanbury occupied the chair, and the lecture was interspersed with musical illustrations from Handel's Oratorio by members of the Crystal Palace prize choir and other vocalists, under the leadership of Mr. Josh. Proudman. Mr. W. E. Shipton, at the close of the proceedings, proposed that the thanks of the meeting should be given to the respective lecturers and chairman during the course, which was carried with applause; and he also said that the success which had attended the resumption of the lectures would encourage the committee to arrange for another course next year.

It was also announced that in response to a general desire, Mr. Dale had consented to redeliver his lecture next Monday evening week, March 2.

THE EVANGELISATION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

On Monday evening, the Borough-road Chapel, Southwark, was attended by a large number of people in connection with a meeting for the purpose of adopting some means for promoting the above object. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., and there were, among others, on the platform, the Rev. G. W. McCree (pastor of the chapel), I. Dosey, E. Schnadhorst, G. H. Fowler, J. H. Wilson, and Messrs. Groom, Stannion, Prebble, Hoare, &c. The proceedings were opened by the singing of a hymn and prayer by the Rev. I. Dosey, after which the chairman introduced the Rev. G. W. McCree, who gave a brief statement of the circumstances under which that meeting was called. When he accepted the pastorate of that church, he thought it would be a good thing to have a meeting of workers in various parts of the metropolis, and in different kinds of labour. By hearing the gentlemen who were invited they would be able to form some idea of the work to be done, and of the best mode of setting about it. He had determined to make it his aim that this should be a working people, and he was glad to say that he had found them a willing church, and he had reason to believe, that when set to work they would accomplish much good in that neighbourhood. The speakers who would follow would tell them of the different kinds of service in which they were engaged, and he

hoped that they would be able to hold an anniversary of that meeting, when they would be able to look back upon the past year with much gratitude for what had been accomplished.

The Rev. J. H. Wilson, secretary to the Home Missionary Society, being called upon, briefly remarked that successful workers had warm hearts and willing hands; and narrated an interesting story of a labourer who had raised himself and family to comparative prosperity, by his untiring perseverance; and he urged them, although there were many difficulties in the way, to work in their own spheres of labour, as the field in which they were most likely to meet with success. The speaker said that from several addresses of their noble chairman he had received much encouragement and a stimulus to such work as he had been enabled to exert for God. He hoped that those who would hear the addresses of the different friends present would unitedly engage in the work of the evangelisation of that neighbourhood. Mr. Stannion said he had come to that meeting at the request of Mr. Blake, of the Ragged Church and Chapel Union, who was unavoidably absent. He was now a Baptist minister, although he had spent his early youth in the Church of England. In the parish church in the rural districts the peasant and the lady sat side by side, but in London churches the seats were all occupied by the seat-holders, and the poor man could not find room. The report of the Ragged Church and Chapel Union, of which their noble chairman was president, stated that scarcely a third of the working classes in London attended a place of worship. In the country everybody knew and looked after everybody else, and the non-attendance at church was noticed. It was not, he was convinced, the infidelity or the Romanism so often charged upon the working classes, that prevented their attendance at places of worship, but the way in which they were neglected.

The Rev. E. Schnadhorst, secretary of the Christian Instruction Society, believed that only 58 per cent. of the people attended any place of worship, and that the remaining 42 per cent. were infidels, servants, &c., who, for various reasons, did not attend the house of God. A good deal had been said about church and chapel extension, and he thought all honour was due to Archbishop Tait for the prominent part he had taken in the establishment of the Bishop of London's Fund, which no doubt had been the means of stirring up the Nonconformists. But, notwithstanding all that had been done he was convinced that all the churches and chapels would not contain the people, if they should, some Sunday, all think they would go to a place of worship. In the district where he had been minister for sixteen years he had last November endeavoured to ascertain how many of his neighbours went to the house of prayer. Accordingly, on two Sundays he and a number of friends had gone into one street, where there resided 1,031 persons, and they found that the highest number who left their homes for some place of worship was only eighteen! One of the ways to overtake such a state of things, he believed, was that they should have a properly-worked Christian Instruction Society, which, if well supplied with literature of the best kind, and discreetly distributed by persons who had previously prayed about their work, would be productive of the greatest results. The speaker then narrated several incidents illustrating the usefulness of such agencies, and then resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Mr. J. A. Groom, of the Watercress, Flower, and Fruit Sellers' Mission, said he had been engaged in his special and peculiar work for seven years, and he could gratefully testify to the interest taken by the noble earl in the chair in that mission. Those among whom his work specially lay were a hard-working and neglected class, who were only possessed of very small capital, and most of whom sold cresses and flowers for a scanty living in preference to going to the poorhouse. He had found them in a dark and benighted condition, away from home when the missionary called, and at work on the greater part of the Lord's Day. Amongst them were distress and ignorance of the direst kind, and many were unable even to obtain food. However, with the co-operation of Lord Shaftesbury, their condition had been, in a great measure, ameliorated, and a fund had been placed at his own disposal to assist these neglected people. A man was willing to exert himself to gain a livelihood, and thought that a coffee-stall would be a good means of deriving a livelihood, it was, with all the necessary fittings, bought for him out of the fund, and paid for in small instalments. In this way, said Mr. Groom, many had been assisted. The money had been used over and over again, and he always found the people very honest in their repayments. About three hundred persons had been thus helped, and again he would thank Earl Shaftesbury for the great help afforded by him in this interesting mission. (Cheers.)

The Rev. G. H. Fowler, Primitive-Methodist minister, then delivered an address of an interesting character, replete with incidents illustrating the good effect of cordial sympathy with the poor; and he urged zealous action in the neighbourhood, especially by open-air preaching and other special efforts, by means of which they could get at the people who did not attend the House of God.

A vote of thanks, on the motion of Messrs. Hawkins and Prebble, having been presented to the noble chairman for presiding.

Earl Shaftesbury, in responding, said he could not leave the meeting without urging them to uphold Mr. McCree in the work he had undertaken. He knew of few men who had laboured with so assiduous and zealous a spirit; and if the people of the Borough-road would stand by him in the special effort they were about to make, they would be eminently successful. One of the speakers had said that the hindrance to the progress of the Gospel among the working classes was indifference more than Romanism or infidelity. Nevertheless, these evils were, he regretted to say, spreading rapidly among the various circles of society into which he had been, and there was a most insidious and demoralising influence at work among the young in the shape of pernicious juvenile literature, which was extensively disseminated. It seemed to him as though science and art had combined to produce, at a cheap rate, attractive periodicals, which were mischievous, and in many instances, a complete evasion of the law, and such publications, he much regretted to say, found in the shops or on the stalls side by side with the publications of the Religious Tract and True Literature Societies. His lordship in conclusion spoke of the working men, as having amongst the most eloquent, zealous, and earnest of workers, and he (the chairman) trusted that this effort to get at them would be eminently successful. Their proposal systematically to work the neighbourhood with evangelistic effort, was likely to be the incentive to many other churches, and he hoped they would prosecute it in an earnest and zealous spirit. (Loud applause.) The meeting concluded in the usual manner. During the evening several of the songs made popular by the American Jubilee Singers were well rendered by some of the choir, and called forth a special eulogium for Lord Shaftesbury. The choir will repeat them at the Victoria Theatre next Sunday afternoon, when the Rev. G. W. McCree is announced to preach.

THE SPEZIA MISSION FOR ITALY AND THE LEVANT.

The following is a copy of a letter addressed by the Rev. Edward Clarke, of Spezia, to Edward Crossley, Esq., of Halifax:—

Albert House, La Spezia, North Italy, Jan. 28, 1874.

My Dear Friend,—The interest you have taken in the "Spezia Mission" leads me to embrace an early opportunity of sending you a few lines, now that I have once more reached the scene of my labours. I arrived here in December last, coming by sea from Liverpool to Genoa for the benefit of my health, which had suffered considerably, and though I believe I am now feeling the benefit of the voyage, it was one of the most boisterous I ever made, and one not easily to be forgotten either for the majesty of the spectacle when the storm was at its height, or for the imminent danger to which we were more than once exposed. On board I found an opportunity of speaking a word for Christ to some who seemed truly concerned about salvation: one, a boy who had received instruction in a Dissenting Sunday-school, and another, a sailor of mature years, who thought his sins were too great to be pardoned, but who, I trust, knew the blessedness of a sense of forgiveness prior to my leaving the vessel. After the public preaching in the saloon, this man conversed with me in the fore-castle about his state as a sinner and his lost condition, but before night I believe he laid hold of God's promise in the Gospel and found peace. At Spezia I found matters on my arrival in an encouraging state, both in relation to the building, which under one roof will contain chapel, schoolrooms, teacher's room, sailors' reading room, &c., and also relative to the work of evangelisation, which had been carefully attended to during my necessary absence. There is a pleasing spiritual work of an interesting character going on here. It is quiet, but evidently real; and one who has lately been added to our number as a member of the Church has given the clearest possible evidence of a change of heart. He is a native of Venetia, has for some time attended our services, and has, since my return, been joyfully admitted to membership with us. The Lord's Day, on which he first broke bread with us, in commemoration of a Saviour's love, we had also with us some Christian friends from Burmah. At the English service in the morning I had made reference to the wonderful faith of Dr. Judson, of Burmah, when, to my pleasant surprise at the close of the service, I found myself talking to two Christians who had been born in Burmah, and who could confirm the statements I had made in the sermon. He (Dr. Judson) did indeed cast bread on the waters, and find it after many days; and after great discouragements and mighty opposition, we are beginning to reap some fruit here, though without waiting so long as either Judson or the first missionaries in the islands of the South Sea. But faith can remove mountains and beat them smaller even as dust. In no part of the world is faith more needed than in Italy, where for ages not only have the rights of men been trampled in the dust, but where the most stupendous efforts have been made to crush out all real spiritual life. The results are most manifest everywhere; but the dead are hearing the voice of the Son of God, and are coming forth from their graves. Many as yet, it is true, only "see men as trees walking"; but as at the omnific voice of Jesus they have heard, so by His all-powerful touches they will see clearly the way, the truth, and feel the life. Laid aside by illness for two months after my arrival in England in July last, I was unable to accomplish all I had set my heart upon either for the building or the general purposes of the mission; but God is all-sufficient and can any day give all needful funds for one and the other. The unmistakable evidences of Christian sympathy and affection given me while in England were a great encouragement to me in my work, and though far away from English and Scotch friends, I do not forget their hearty friendship, and pray for the richest of blessings to rest on them, and you and yours among the number.

I am, my dear friend,
Yours very truly,
EDWARD CLARKE.

Edward Crossley, Esq.
P.S. Any subscriptions or donations for the Spezia Mission will be thankfully received by Edward Crossley,

Esq., Halifax, Yorkshire, and Steven E. Smith, Esq., 39, Park-square, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Mr. William J. Woods, B.A. London, student and scholar of New College, has accepted an unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregation Church, Spenser-street, Leamington.

TRINMOUTH.—The Congregational Church in this town has just been completed by the erection of the spire. The contract for this was taken at 1,250*l*. The work has gone on through the whole of a very tempestuous winter without a single accident to either men or machinery. This church derives its whole revenue from the free-will offerings of the worshippers.

CATERHAM.—The Independents of Caterham, Surrey, one of the most picturesque, as well as healthy places so near London—the distance being only fifteen miles—have resolved upon the erection of a new church, suitable to the requirements of the beautiful and improving locality. At the annual meeting of the church and congregation, held on Monday in the chapel, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, the pastor, the Rev. Robert Darey, took the chair, and there addressed the meeting the Rev. J. W. Whiting, Croydon, and W. G. Soper, Esq., T. B. Winter, Esq., T. J. Redgate, Esq., and S. D. Rickards, Esq., all these gentlemen being officially identified with the progress of Christian work in connection with this church. Their speeches partook of the character of that department with which each was more particularly associated. It appeared from the address of W. G. Soper, Esq., the chairman of the Building Committee, that three-quarter acres of land had been purchased in the most prominent position in the valley, and that the entire cost, together with the erection of the church to hold 500 and vestries, at not exceeding 4,500*l*, schools an additional 1,300*l*. Towards this the congregation had themselves subscribed 2,500*l* for the church, and 78*l*. for the schools, and had further collected 900*l*, thus leaving on the church a deficit of not more than 1,200*l*, to meet with it was said strenuous exertions would be used because it is of the highest importance, especially in their locality, that the church should be opened free from debt. It was intimated that the work would be pressed forward with all speed, and that the memorial stone would be laid not later than the early summer months. There are only three Nonconformist places of worship within a radius of seven miles of Caterham, and none at all within a radius of three miles.

Correspondence.

NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE ELECTION, MR. GLADSTONE, AND THE LIBERAL PARTY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Having opened your columns to election after-thoughts, I ask leave to send you a few from the north, where, as in other parts of the kingdom, the Liberals must confess to have been beaten "along the whole line." But in north-east Lancashire we made a good fight, and came near dislodging the two Tory representatives of this district. Our defeat, so far from disheartening, has improved us; and we are already preparing for another struggle, not less keen than that just closed, and, we hope, more successful. You are probably aware that a very large proportion of electors in North-East Lancashire are Nonconformists. It is as one of them that I look back upon the recent election, and I assure you that it presents itself to my mind as one mainly between ourselves and the persons, aided by the publicans. It was a curious and suggestive sight to see (as some of us did) a clergyman here and a publican not far off, busily packing voters into vehicles, and starting them for the booths to vote for Messrs. Holt and Staffie, two of the most obedient of Mr. Darvall's followers. One sight is not unfamiliar, but we did not find it the less melancholy. It has rendered good service to the Liberals—that of revealing the full strength of their opponents; for assuredly, the Tories are at their best voting power when the Church and public-house serve as their nurseries and training establishments. The utmost that parson and "landlord" could do was to defeat Lord Edward Cavendish and Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth by an average majority of 139; a number somewhat less than that which they showed five years ago. Hence, as one leading Lancashire "daily" says, we have "more than maintained our position." Perhaps the dispassionate and unprejudiced of our critics (if any there be) will regard this local contest as a proof of the loyalty of Nonconformists to the Liberal party under any reasonably fair conditions. For more than two years, we have been reviled as an intractable, destructive, and altogether intolerable faction. Such diatribes as have appeared in the *Times* and (alas) in the *Spectator*, have been hard to bear. But we have borne them unscathed. We have cared far less for them than for a fact which we cannot easily forget—the fact that a Ministry which we spared no efforts to carry into power, and a Prime Minister who has received continual proofs of our devotion to him personally, have on all occasions treated us as if our slanderers had real justification. However, the time has come when the true destroyers of the Liberal majority will be recognized, and I have no hesitation in saying that next to Mr. W. E. Forster, the misleaders of public opinion which I

have named will be regarded as amongst the foremost and most blameworthy. Neither in this district nor in any other where Nonconformists are powerful, have they refused any the slightest offer of conciliation—nay, they have eagerly, perhaps too eagerly, sought common grounds of action with every section of the Liberal party. Here, we have polled side by side with Roman Catholics; a fact which admits of an explanation in every way honourable to them, and in no sense discreditable to us.

The elections over, and Mr. Gladstone a rejected Premier, what is the chief fact of a practical character which we have learned? One that Mr. Gladstone would do well most seriously to ponder: the fact that he and we have to contend with a vast, permanent, ever-busy, electioneering committee, consisting of the clergy and their allies, always organised, with centres of combination always at hand (most of which have been raised at the national cost), and always in fighting trim. In other words, Mr. Gladstone has to learn and lay to heart the fact that the Establishment and its officials constitute his "one great foe," with means, agencies, and appliances, against which nothing short of the perfect union and unbounded enthusiasm of the Liberals can successfully cope. As one reflects upon this fact, the suicidal character of the sudden dissolution appears, and the later policy of the Cabinet seems to have been the result of sheer fatuity. To think that a disintegration which had been going on for three years, could be recovered in three weeks! I, for one, cannot doubt that the secrecy and surprise of the whole affair were prompted not merely by the continued run of "ill-luck" which culminated at Stroud, but by a desire to "dish" inconvenient and troublesome Liberals like the Disenters, to carry a grand budget with the abolition of the income-tax, and then to let us take our chance, and sink or swim with any future Administration. It seems impossible to doubt that a latent, if not avowed, indisposition to deal with inevitable ecclesiastical questions, is the key to the terrible *fiasco* which we have just witnessed.

Now that Mr. Gladstone is down, shall we desert him? No. So far from that, I feel confident that he will find in Nonconformists just what he has always found in them, his most faithful, patient, and unselfish supporters. It is simply impossible for him to advance a step without going our road. No matter what subject he may take up with a view to progress, he will find us ready; and it is scarcely necessary to say that we shall go with him, as we have before, with great pleasure. We form an indispensable element—more than one member of Mr. Gladstone's Government has admitted that we are "the backbone"—of the Liberal party. Neither in Parliament nor out of Parliament, can it move without us; and if Mr. Gladstone elects to go "straight," and not Forster-wise, on great fundamental questions, we shall gratefully and gladly follow his lead.

For one, I confess my grievous disappointment with the programme set forth in the Greenwich address and subsequent speeches. Its grand item was the abolition of the income-tax. Now, Sir, the true theory and practice of taxation, whenever they are reached, will be distinctly *direct*, and there are many who would rather have paid the income-tax longer than see the Liberal party overthrown. But apart from questions of taxation, I think Nonconformists value their principles more than their money; and some of them, at least, will say that from an appeal to the nation, in 1868, on the magnificent grounds of civil and religious equality, to an appeal in 1874 on the disputable grounds of the abolition of an income-tax, is a lamentable descent, marking a decay of loyalty to the highest principles of State-craft, and a weariness of contending for their further triumph. Be this as it may, Nonconformists will not willingly or quickly separate from Mr. Gladstone. Nay, if separation come, it will be by his act and deed. Are we not mutually necessary? Should not the successes and defeats of the past, shared together as they have been, still make us fellow-soldiers,—he the general, we the troops! But, if after all, no sign be made by him of a desire to lead us; if he continue to back up the Forster policy, and to grow passionate at the mention of disestablishment, we shall have but one plain course open to us. We shall go our way—he his. Ours will no doubt lead us into the "wilderness." If so, his will not take him by any easier route to the "land of promise." While we are amongst the rocks and the sand he will not be enjoying an oasis. While we are eating "bitter herbs," his food will not be dainty. While water will be scarce with us, with him it will not be plentiful. But need we go different ways? I hope not. I have regarded Mr. Gladstone as the Moses of his party—our party, and I shall not willingly regard him in any other light. And patience may be shown him. The Moses of the ancient Israelites did not see his way to the permanent leadership clear at first. He needed self-conflict, fastings, meditations, and irresistible impulses; even some severe discipline and humiliation. Perhaps the leader of the Liberal party is just entering upon a season of hard and painful, but necessary, preparation. I am disposed to believe, until evidence of a final sort to the contrary be given, that he will come forth again to attempt the crowning work of civil and religious equality in this nation—certain rash and fervid protestations upon record notwithstanding. Should he do so,

he may confidently rely upon a brave, an enduring, and a faithful following of Nonconformists. They will back him as one man; and in moments of danger, suspense, or exhaustion there will be foremost men amongst them—perhaps a Bright and a Miall—ready at his side to sustain his hands.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,
NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.
February 14, 1874.

CAUSES OF THE LIBERAL DEFEAT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—But for the vital importance of the question, I should not venture to express a different view from your own as to the causes of the Liberal defeat. That defeat is due only in a very subordinate degree to Conservative reaction. There are other causes of far greater magnitude.

To me it seems that the defeat is largely owing to the merits of the Gladstone Government.

1. It had the courage to deal with the Licensing question, and thus alienated the publicans, whose voting power is strong and whose canvassing power is much stronger.

2. It has, after many abortive attempts have been made, got an Adulteration Act in operation, and as adulteration is a difficult subject upon which to legislate, not only rogues but innocent traders have been sometimes fined or put in fear. The result is a large defection among the trading class.

3. Liberalism means economy, and there are certain places directly interested in expenditure. Hence the losses in dockyard town—Plymouth, Devonport, Portsmouth, and Chatham.

4. Mr. Gladstone had expressed himself favourable to the extension of the county franchise; there is no doubt that this declaration alienated large numbers of half-hearted Liberals in the counties.

These I should put down as the unavoidable causes of defeat—the courage to do right without fear of the consequences. In the same category might be placed the losses incurred by a plethora of Liberal candidates, though, as we are always thus handicapped in the race, it is scarcely right to reckon it as one of the causes of defeat on this occasion.

But there are other and preventible causes quite as important as those above mentioned. 1. Want of preparation. In a very large number of towns there was not a rag of a Liberal organisation, while the Tories had been working hard for years. Sir Charles Dilke owes his seat to organisation, hard work on his own part, and attention to the registration. In spite of the prejudices excited against him he headed the poll. In most of the other London boroughs there was no organisation whatever, and no attempt at working the registration courts. 2. The apathy of many advanced men did much harm. The abstentions were few; but there were many Nonconformists and others who did nothing more than vote. 3. There was a wide-spread belief in the smaller boroughs that the ballot is not secret, and in many cases the Tories encouraged this belief. 4. The intemperate and violent language of some prominent democrats had done a certain amount of harm among timid people.

I believe all these causes have militated largely to the Liberal defeat—the remedies are obvious.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
February 16, 1874. H. E.

THE LATE CHARLES DICKENS AND MR. BINNEY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me to direct the attention of your readers to a matter that seems to have escaped the notice of your reviewer of the third volume of the "Life of Charles Dickens"? It will be remembered generally that in the second volume, Mr. Forster inserted a letter written many years ago by Dickens to his friend Felton, in which he describes in an excessively comical manner "a scene at a funeral." Knowing at the time I read this nothing of the case itself—not suspecting, or even curious to inquire, who the "Independent Clergyman" was—I confess I did not believe in the truth of the statement. It looked as if it had been touched up a good deal, and bore the unmistakable features of the Dickens manner. But then, no one ever looked for truth of narration from Dickens, only for truth in the expression of what he felt about things. Nor would the man who could unconsciously imitate the crime of Ham—exposing for ever his father's shame by giving it perpetuity in the character of Micawber—be likely to regard the sacredness of the funeral service, or to spare the feelings of mourners if he could get a laugh out of them.

It was not surprising therefore that the "Independent clergyman," who it now appears was Mr. Binney, should issue a sort of affidavit, setting forth what did really take place, and exposing the untruthfulness of Mr. Dickens's letter. An abridgement of this counter statement Mr. Forster has placed as an appendix to his third vol., and adds to it these words, "The reader must be left to judge between what is said of the incident in the text and these recollections of it after thirty years." Now, this is, to say the least of it, a scarcely respectful manner in which to deal with such a statement as that put forth by Mr. Binney. It is also in

striking contrast to the way in which Mr. Forster treats the accusation brought against Dickens—that he spared no friend's feelings if only he could use him as a type of character, or needed him as an object of ridicule. The defence of Dickens, in this respect, in the case of his father and Micawber, of Hunt and Harold Skimpole, of an unknown little Miss Mowcher, is most careful and laboured. His biographer, compelled to admit that pain was often inflicted, and that confession and apology were found necessary, contends that "he erred from thoughtlessness only." Nevertheless the anxiety to defend him is very manifest.

But, as in the case before us Mr. Forster refuses to assist his readers in forming a judgment, allow me to offer a suggestion on which side lies the truth. The note appended would have us believe it is all a matter of probability depending on memory; but it is not so. There are at least three matters of fact which Mr. Dickens has manifestly falsified, the dress of the clergyman, the custom of carrying a book under his arm and of conducting domestic service; the third and most important contradiction is that Mr. Cruikshank did not write the offensive paragraph, and was therefore equally annoyed with Mr. Binney at its insertion. The matters which depend more immediately on memory are the relative position of Dickens and Cruikshank during the service, and the words imputed to Mr. Binney. No one who has heard Mr. Binney in the pulpit can possibly believe that he talked the "high falutin" put into his mouth by Dickens; still less that his extemporary prayer was "a very miserable jumble." Nor is it credible, even supposing that Dickens and Cruikshank knelt side by side, that the latter could make at that time the ridiculous joke imputed to him.

I have been for many years a great admirer of the works of Dickens. They have been a relief from the cares of life, their cheery humour and rollicking fun have often supplied a lacking element; but I have never looked upon the author himself as a great teacher, a prophet, or philosopher. Had I ever done so, Mr. Forster's biography would have destroyed the illusion. It is a sad book—it tells one of the saddest tales in literary history. It is the story of a man splendidly endowed, but with no sense of the trust reposed in him; of a man who had a profession, but no true vocation; whose reward was bewildering flattery, amazing wealth lavished in private theatricals, dinner-parties, feverish journeys through Europe and America; but who never knew "the exceeding great reward" which Coleridge said belonged to the true poet. If there be one thing more melancholy than the life itself, it is that its chronicle should be written by one of the oldest and most accomplished of living literary men.

I am, yours, &c.,
M.

THE EVILS OF RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In the late Jeremy Bentham's interesting "Book of Fallacies" he explains the causes which tend to make a clergyman insincere.

1. On entering the profession, before he can obtain any remuneration or subsistence from it, he must declare his belief in the Thirty-nine Articles—articles framed so long ago, in times of ignorance and violence, that it is not probable that any well-informed man of the present day should believe them.

2. This declaration of belief includes an undertaking that he should never own any after change of opinion on the subject of the Articles, and if questioned as to such change, he should deny it.

3. Thus having become a clergyman, he sees that degradation and loss of income must follow upon sincerity; while all the rewards of his profession are given to absurdity and insincerity. Now, under these circumstances, though the punishment and the rewards thus held out can never produce belief, yet they certainly do produce, 1st, a declaration of belief; 2nd, an abstaining from any declaration of disbelief; 3rd, a turning aside from all examination, or studies which tend to produce disbelief; and 4th, a looking out for, and fastening exclusive attention on, all considerations which tend to produce some sort of vague and indistinct belief of these absurd propositions.

4. For teaching such religious truths as the clergyman is allowed to teach, and such religious error as he is forced to teach, he sees payment in money and rank allotted in larger quantities than are allotted to the most useful services.

In Scotland, where Government rewards are not given to Church-of-Englandism, it is reduced to next to nothing.

It being characteristic of an abuse to need support, it is the interest of every man who derives profit from one abuse to give support to every other abuse connected with Government. It is his interest also to give his support to that system of education by which men may be most divested of the power and the will to detect fallacies and expose abuses; and thence to oppose every good plan of education which may tend to overthrow abuses.

Thus far is the abstract of a chapter in Bentham's book; and no stronger argument can be brought forward against national religious endowment, and in favour of the disendowment and disestablishment of the so-called Church of England. But, unfortunately, this is not an argument which can be used by the Liberator

Society, because it tells, though but in a small degree, against the Dissenting trust-deeds. It is true that the two cases are very different. The Church of England has got the national property, our property, while the Dissenting congregations have got their own property. If we complain of the Church Establishment as an injustice done to all Nonconformists, nothing can be said against us. But if we speak of liberation of religion from the Act of Uniformity, the Church papers answer, "Take the beam out of your own eye." The two matters must be treated by Parliament very differently. When we withdraw from the Church its bonds, we withdraw from it also the national property; but for the Dissenting chapels, we should simply relax the doctrinal bonds in the trust-deeds, leaving to each congregation its own property. In the hands of Parliament the two cases are different, but as long as they are confined to public reasoning and discussion they have so much in common that it is most desirable to deprive the clergy of the *tu quoque* argument, which the Church papers seem to consider as the best support to their gigantic abuse. This must be done by petitions to Parliament for the liberation of religion in both cases.

Yours, &c.,

SAMUEL SHARPE.

32, Highbury-place.

THE FIGHTING IN MADAGASCAR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me to tell the sequel of the story of which I sent you the first part some time ago? My authority is, as before, the Rev. James Wills, of the London Missionary Society, who writes from Faravohitra, Antananarivo, after an interview with one of the commanders of the army.

The Queen's army, the Hovas, was divided into two parts. One part, consisting of 3,000 men, was led by the brother-in-law of the prime minister. It attacked the army of the Sakalavas, and, after some severe fighting, in which the enemy lost their leader, the king's son gained a victory. The Hovas, however, lost some hundreds of their men in the engagement, and several died from disease. The lost gun was not retaken, and the results of the fighting are likely to be very small. It is probable that another expedition will be considered necessary next year.

The other division of the army was under the command of Rabe, nephew of the prime minister. He led his 2,000 soldiers against the Ibara, a tribe who have never submitted to the Hovas. Five or six chiefs, or kings, gave in their allegiance without fighting. The war was conducted by Rabe, who is a professed Christian, according to modern civilised usages. When he reached the enemy's country he sent messages of friendship to the inhabitants; he returned the cattle and slaves that strayed into his camp, and paid for everything he took from the people. He succeeded in inspiring confidence; supplies were brought for sale and submission was offered to the Queen. The chiefs are reported to have said, "The God of the Bible must be true, for great Imeriva does not kill us and take our wives and children and possessions as they used to; send us teachers that we may learn the truth too." Since the return of the army, the condition of these people in this province has come before the Congregational Union of Madagascar; and it has been resolved to send Evangelists there as well as to other equally dark parts of the island. The people of Ibara are miserably superstitious, and are full of suspicion one of another. Of this latter fact Mr. Wills gives instances which are amusingly ludicrous in one aspect, but which are also most painfully suggestive of the extent to which sin can poison and spoil all human relations. In the simplest acts of daily life they are always on the outlook against surprise and assault.

Mr. Wills received from Rabe a gratifying account of the effect produced on the heathen soldiers in his army by the subscriptions of the Christian churches for their comfort. Many of them took idols with them when they left Imeriva; but the kindness shown to them by the Christian officers, and the money and medicine given to them, "quite won them over." Service was held every Sunday, and the drum beat every morning and evening for prayers. On the first Sundays of the month the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed. A list of church-members connected with each town church was carried by some trusted pastor and deacons and church discipline was maintained.

Mr. Wills gives a long and interesting account of the visit to the queen to Fianarantsoa, the capital of the Betasileo province; but as the account of this expedition has been made public through other sources, I forbear to trouble you with it.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM CLARKSON.

Salisbury.

MR. ARTHUR CLAYDEN AND THE WALLINGFORD ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Your readers, I presume, feel that they are laid under unspeakable obligations to your correspondent, "Arthur Clayden." It will be an evil day for the Nonconformist when he shall cease to drive a quill. What was the Public Advertiser without Junius! and what

would the Nonconformist be without "Arthur Clayden"? The greatness to which he has grown since he left our little town "is marvellous in our eyes" and suggests the inquiry made in another case—

Now in the name of all the gods at once,
What meat doth this our Caesar feed on,
That he hath grown so great?

We allow to writers of fiction a very considerable license, but if I might offer a suggestion, I would advise Mr. Clayden to take care when he prepares his next fiction for the Nonconformist, that though not founded on fact, it shall not be directly and wholly opposed to fact.

With us it is a very small thing to be judged of "Arthur Clayden," but for those in the distance, allow me to say that his letter in your last issue was written in gross ignorance, or there is much "set down in malice."

Mr. Edwin Jones, Mayor of Southampton, is a really good Liberal. Had the Liberal party in the late Parliament been composed wholly of men like-minded, the demoralisation of that party spoken of by "Arthur Clayden" would have been unknown. Many public meetings were convened by Mr. Jones last summer in this district, in which the cause of the labourer was powerfully advocated. Never had the dwellers in the villages such a political education. Their enthusiasm was thoroughly excited, and their votes were promised to Mr. Jones. But the "Tory brewer," aided by the priest and the publican—persuading the agricultural labourer that the ballot did not ensure secrecy—won the seat.

"Nothing risked for their sake!" It would be nearer the truth to say that the seat was risked for their sake. No men in the country fought more valiantly than the Liberals of Wallingford.

'Tis not in mortals to command success;
They may do more—deserve it.

I remain, yours faithfully,

THOMAS BROOKS.

Wallingford, Feb. 16, 1874.

CONFERENCE OF THE BISHOPS OF INDIA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—For the benefit of your numerous readers I have the pleasure to send you a brief account of the conference of the Bishops of India which was held at Nagpore, Nov. 26th and 27th, 1873. The bishops present were the Bishop of Calcutta, the Bishop of Madras, and the Bishop of Bombay. The Bishop of Colombo was prevented from attending by ill health. Among others, the following subjects received attention:—

- (1.) The revision of diocesan boundaries.
- (2.) The consecration of mission churches.
- (3.) Lay ministrations.

By far the most important subject was, however, the increase of the Indian episcopate by the formation of new dioceses by coadjutor or missionary bishops. Touching this subject letters were read from the Bishop of Madras to the Metropolitan of India and the Archbishop of Canterbury, requesting his grace to bring in a bill for enabling suffragan or coadjutor bishops to be consecrated for India to superintend the missions of the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the Diocese of Madras under the bishop of the diocese. Letters were also read from the metropolitan to the Archbishop of Canterbury—from the secretaries of the above societies—and also containing the opinion of counsel.

After discussion, it was agreed that each bishop should draw up a paper embodying his views on the subject of additional bishops; and that the discussion be postponed till the following day.

On the following day it was resolved that the appointment of mere coadjutor bishops is open to grave objection, inasmuch as

- (1.) Such bishops would be without that freedom and independence which is essential to the due exercise of their office.
- (2.) Their position as mere curates, acting in entire subordination to the bishop, would render them in public estimation an inferior class of bishops.
- (3.) They would almost necessarily be so closely connected with the above two societies to which they were respectively to belong, that they would tend to separate by party distinctions those who are now cordially united under one bishop.

That, therefore, instead of adopting what must be regarded as an expedient of doubtful advantage and which may lead to some evils, every effort should be made to remove all restrictions upon the free action of the Bishops of India, and to obtain an enabling Act of Parliament which would empower them to rearrange their existing dioceses, to constitute fresh dioceses, and to consecrate additional bishops; such power to be exercised, subject to the consent of the Government of India, and it being provided that no additional charge be made on the Indian revenues for additional bishoprics.

That if the settlement of the questions above referred to be unduly delayed, coadjutor bishops for the Southern India missions might be consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a temporary expedient, such bishops to take the oath of obedience to the Metropolitan of India, and their spheres of labour to be determined rather by considerations of territory than of relation to any society.

That such missionary bishops should not have oversight of chaplains and clergy whose main work is the ministration to Europeans and Eurasians.

That the Committee of the Colonial Bishops Fund be insisted to raise a special fund for additional bishoprics in India.

That if designed to superintend chaplains, a bishop should have an income of not less than 1,250*l.* a year.

That if a bishop be consecrated for purely missionary purposes it might be laid down as a rule that a bishop should be paid double what he would have received as a missionary priest as a married or single man.

It was also agreed that a pastoral letter be addressed by the Indian bishops to the members of the Church in India, urging them to aid the work of missions.

That an appeal be made by the Indian bishops to the Convocation of Canterbury and York to arouse and deepen the interest of the English Church in the work of evangelising the 240 millions of India.

On reading the above report, many of the readers of the Nonconformist will rejoice at the development of the voluntary principle among the upholders of a State Church; they will also regret that "in the work of evangelising the 240 millions of India" the bishops of the Church have to go to Parliament before they can obtain freedom of action. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," said Jesus Christ to His disciples; but the bishops say that "every effort should be made to obtain an enabling Act of Parliament which would remove all restrictions upon free action—which would enable the bishops to rearrange existing dioceses and constitute fresh ones, and empower them to consecrate additional bishops." How different the command in the Gospel of Matthew from the resolution of the Indian bishops at Nagpore! Any legal action taken in England with reference to the increase of the Indian Episcopate, will doubtless be watched very carefully by the advocates of free churches. Nonconformists can have no objection to the Church of England having as many bishops as it likes to pay for, but they will object to their being sent forth to India with the power and authority of the Queen and Parliament to superintend the agents of the Church Mission and Propagation Societies.

While upon this subject I may say how pleased I was that Mr. Miall called for returns as to the number of chaplains on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment—their cost to the country—and the nature of the duties they had to perform. Since those returns were called for, all the chaplains have been supplied with forms, and asked for particulars as to the persons who comprise their congregations, whether military or civil, and how many attend their ministrations. Though more than a year has elapsed since these returns were required, I have not yet heard of their being tabulated. It is to be hoped that measures will be adopted to check them; or, judging from a case which has come under my own notice, they will be far from correct. In a station, for instance, with which I am familiar, there is a chaplain whose congregations for the past seven years have not at headquarters averaged a dozen officers, military and civil, put together, and yet I am informed that he makes out his spiritual charge to comprise some three or four hundred souls! In this charge, however, whoever it may include, there is not, so far as I know, a single European soldier, for whose special benefit, let it be remembered, chaplains are appointed, and hence are called "military chaplains." A friend to whom I mentioned this case told me of a station in which he resided where there was a "military chaplain" but no military. And even in the large cities where numbers of chaplains are located—Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, for example—the congregations of these so-called "military chaplains" are made up chiefly of civilians. A question might be raised as to how far it is right to pay out of the revenue of India even those chaplains who minister to English troops; but surely it cannot be right to make the poor Hindoos and Mahomedans pay for the ministrations of chaplains in large and wealthy cities to congregations composed mainly of civilians. It is to be hoped that some one will call the attention of Parliament to this aspect of the case. If it is thought necessary to have chaplains attached to European regiments, be it so; but do not let us, in the name of religion, practise deceit upon the people by calling men military chaplains, and then locate them in stations where not a single English soldier is to be found. To tax the salt of the poor native to pay for Christian teachers, is not the way to make the religion of Jesus palatable. It is surely time, therefore, that the Ecclesiastical Establishment in this country was overhauled, as the arguments for the disestablishment of the Church in India are far more numerous and weighty than for the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland and the colonies.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

OBSERVER.

India, Jan. 2, 1874.

Mr. Disraeli has taken up his quarters at No. 2, Whitehall Gardens, a small thin house belonging to the Dowager Duchess of Northumberland, and of the usual London type. It was only two doors off—No. 4—where Sir Robert Peel was residing when his career was cut short by the fatal fall from his horse on Constitution Hill.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The following members have been returned since the issue of our last number. The asterisk denotes a new member:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Places.	Members.	L. C.
Buckinghamshire	Right Hon. B. Disraeli	— 1
	*Sir R. Harvey	— 1
	Mr. N. G. Lambert	— 1
Cardiff	Colonel Stuart	— 1
Cardiganshire	*Mr. Thomas E. Lloyd	— 1
Carmarthenshire	*Lord Emllyn	— 1
	Mr. J. Jones	— 1
Carnarvonshire	*Hon. Douglas Pennant	— 1
Cornwall, East	*Sir Colman Rashleigh	— 1
	*Mr. John Tremayne	— 1
Derbyshire, East	Hon. F. Egerton	— 1
	*Mr. F. Arkwright	— 1
Derbyshire, South	Sir H. Wilmot	— 1
	*Mr. T. W. Evans	— 1
Durham, South	Mr. J. W. Pease	— 1
	Capt. Beaumont	— 1
Glamorgan	Mr. H. H. Vivian	— 1
	Mr. C. R. M. Talbot	— 1
Hertfordshire	*Mr. T. F. Halsey	— 1
	Mr. A. Smith	— 1
	Hon. H. F. Cowper	— 1
Huntingdon	*Mr. E. Fellowes	— 1
	*Sir H. Pelly	— 1
Isle of Wight	Mr. A. Baillie-Cochrane	— 1
Kent, East	Hon. G. W. Milles	— 1
	Mr. E. L. Pemberton	— 1
Lancashire, S.E.	Hon. Algernon Egerton	— 1
	*Mr. Edward Hardcastle	— 1
Leicestershire, S.	Mr. Albert Pell	— 1
	Mr. W. U. Heygate	— 1
Middlesex	*Lord George Hamilton	— 1
	*Mr. Octavius Coope	— 1
Norfolk, South	Mr. C. S. Read	— 1
	Sir R. Buxton	— 1
Pembroke Burghs	*Mr. E. J. Reed	— 1
Radnorshire	Hon. A. Walsh	— 1
Suffolk, East	*Lord Rendlesham	— 1
	Lord Mahon	— 1
Warwickshire, N.	Mr. C. N. Newdegate	— 1
	Mr. Bromley-Davenport	— 1
Warwickshire, S.	*Lord Yarmouth	— 1
	*Sir J. Eardley Wilmot	— 1
Wilts, North	*Mr. G. B. Estcourt	— 1
	Sir George Jenkinson	— 1
Worcestershire, E.	*Mr. H. Allsopp	— 1
	*Mr. T. E. Walker	— 1
Yorkshire, W.R., E.	Mr. C. B. Denison	— 1
	Mr. J. Fielden	— 1
Yorkshire, W.R., N.	Lord F. Cavendish	— 1
	*Mr. Matthew Wilson	— 1
Yorkshire, S.W.	Mr. W. S. Stanhope	— 1
	*Mr. L. R. Starkey	— 1

SCOTLAND.

Berwickshire	*Hon. R. B. Hamilton	— 1
Dumfriesshire	Mr. A. Orr-Ewing	— 1
Edin and Nairn	*Lord Macduff	— 1
Falkirk Burghs	*Mr. Ramsay	— 1
Fife	Sir R. Anstruther	— 1
Kinross	Mr. W. P. Adam	— 1
Lanarkshire, S.	*Sir W. C. Anstruther	— 1
Perthshire	*Sir W. S. Maxwell	— 1
Orkney & Shetland	Mr. Samuel Laing	— 1
Roxburghshire	*Sir George Douglas	— 1
Wick Burghs	Mr. John Pender	— 1

IRELAND.

Antrim County	*Mr. James Chaine	— 1
	Hon. Ed. O'Neill	— 1
Cavan County	*Mr. Fay	— 1
	*Mr. Biggar	— 1
Clare County	Sir Colman O'Loughlin	— 1
	*Lord F. Conyngham	— 1
Donegal	Marquis of Hamilton	— 1
	Mr. Thomas Conolly	— 1
Fermanagh	Mr. Wm. Archdall	— 1
	Hon. H. A. Cole	— 1
Galway County	Mr. Mitchell Henry	— 1
	*Captain Nolan	— 1
Kildare County	*Mr. Meldon	— 1
	Right Hon. W. F. Cogan	— 1
King's County	Sir P. O'Brien	— 1
	Mr. Serjeant Sherlock	— 1
Limerick County	*Mr. O'Sullivan	— 1
	Mr. E. J. Synan	— 1
Longford County	Major O'Reilly	— 1
	*Mr. Errington	— 1
Londonderry Co.	*Professor R. Smyth	— 1
	*Mr. Hugh Law	— 1
Louth County	*Mr. Sullivan	— 1
	*Mr. P. Callan	— 1
Monaghan	Mr. C. P. Shirley	— 1
	Mr. E. Leslie	— 1
Tipperary	Hon. Colonel White	— 1
	*Mr. W. O'Callaghan	— 1
Tyrone County	*Capt. J. W. Macartney	— 1
	Capt. Corry	— 1
Waterford County	*Lord C. Beresford	— 1
	Sir J. Esmonde	— 1
Westmeath	Mr. P. J. Smyth	— 1
	*Lord Robert Montagu	— 1

THE POLLS.

The following is the result of the polling in the constituencies indicated since our last number:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.
CARDIGANSHIRE. 1.—Mr. T. E. Lloyd (C), 1,850; Mr. E. M. Richards (L), 1,605.
CARMARTHENSHIRE. 2.—Viscount Emllyn (C), 3,389; Mr. J. Jones (C), 3,261; Mr. W. Powell (L), 2,799; Mr. E. J. Sartoris (L), 2,331.
CARNARVONSHIRE. 1.—Hon. G. D. Pennant (C), 2,750; Mr. T. L. Jones Parry (L), 2,318.
CORNWALL (EAST). 2.—Sir C. Rashleigh (L), 3,396; Mr. Tremayne (C), 3,276; Mr. P. Carew (C), 3,099; Mr. Kelly (L), 2,976.
DERBYSHIRE (EAST). 2.—Hon. F. Egerton (L), 2,206; Mr. F. Arkwright (C), 2,116; Mr. W. Fowler (C), 2,067; Hon. H. Strutt (L), 2,017.
DERBYSHIRE (SOUTH). 2.—Mr. H. Wilmot (C), 3,934; Mr. T. W. Evans (L), 3,773; Mr. Rowland Smith (C), 3,572.
DURHAM (SOUTH). 2.—Mr. J. W. Pease (L), 4,792; Mr. F. B. Beaumont (L), 4,461; Viscount Castlereagh (C), 3,887.
GLAMORGANSHIRE. 2.—Mr. Hussey Vivian (L), 4,100; Mr. C. R. M. Talbot (L), 4,040; Sir Ivor B. Guest (C), 3,353.
HERTFORDSHIRE. 3.—Mr. T. F. Halsey (C), 4,499; Mr. Abel Smith (C), 4,498; Hon. F. Cowper (L), 2,974; Mr. H. R. Brand (L), 2,964.
HUNTS. 2.—Mr. E. Fellowes (C), 1,648; Sir H. Pelly (C), 1,482; Lord D. Gordon (L), 1,192.
ISLE OF WIGHT. 1.—Mr. Baillie Cochrane (C), 1,614; Hon. E. Ashley (L), 1,604.
KENT (EAST). 2.—Hon. G. W. Milles (C), 5,424; Mr. E. L. Pemberton (C), 5,405; Sir H. Tufton (L), 4,308.
LANCASHIRE (SOUTH-EAST). 2.—Hon. A. Egerton (C), 9,187; Mr. E. Hardcastle (C), 9,015; Mr. P. Rylands (L), 7,464; Mr. J. E. Taylor (L), 7,453.
LEICESTERSHIRE (SOUTH). 3.—Mr. Pell (C), 3,583; Mr. Heygate (C), 3,269; Mr. T. Paget (L), 2,883.
MIDDLESEX. 2.—Lord George Hamilton (C), 10,343; Mr. Coope (C), 9,867; Lord Enfield (L), 5,623; Mr. F. Lehmann (L), 5,192.
NORFOLK (SOUTH). 2.—Mr. C. S. Read (C), 8,140; Sir E. J. Buxton (C), 3,010; Mr. R. T. Gurdon (L), 2,699.
PEMBROKE BOROUGH. 1.—Mr. E. J. Reed (L), 1,330; Mr. T. Meyrick (C), 1,319.
RADNORSHIRE. 1.—Hon. A. Walsh (C), 889; Mr. R. Green Price (L), 832; Mr. G. A. Haig (L), 100.
SUFFOLK (EAST). 2.—Lord Rendlesham (C), 4,136; Lord Mahon (C), 3,896; Colonel Tomline (L), 3,014.
WARWICKSHIRE (NORTH). 2.—Mr. C. N. Newdegate (C), 4,672; Mr. W. Bromley Davenport (C), 4,322; Mr. G. F. Muntz (L), 3,189.
WARWICKSHIRE (SOUTH). 2.—Earl of Yarmouth (C), 2,832; Sir J. Eardley Wilmot (C), 2,801; Sir R. Hamilton (L), 2,170.
WILTS (NORTH). 2.—Mr. G. B. Estcourt (C), 3,195; Sir G. Jenkinson (C), 3,122; Lord C. Bruce (L), 2,358.
WORCESTERSHIRE (EAST). 2.—Mr. A. Allsopp (C), 4,421; Mr. Walker (C), 4,159; Hon. C. Lytton (L), 3,308; Mr. Allbright (L), 2,831; Mr. W. Laslett (C) (retired), 55.
YORKSHIRE (NORTH-WEST). 2.—Lord F. Cavendish (L), 8,681; Mr. M. Wilson (L), 8,598; Mr. E. S. Powell (C), 7,820; Mr. W. Fison (C), 7,725.
YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING, EAST). 2.—Mr. C. B. Denison (C), 8,240; Mr. Joshua Fielden (C), 8,077; Sir J. Ramsden (L), 7,285; Mr. I. Holden (L), 7,218.
YORKSHIRE (SOUTH-WEST). 2.—Mr. Spencer Stanhope (C), 9,705; Mr. L. R. Starkey (C), 8,639; Mr. W. H. Leatham (L), 8,265; Mr. H. F. Beaumont (L), 8,145.

SCOTLAND.

AYRSHIRE (NORTH). 1.—Mr. Roger Montgomerie (C), 1,563; Mr. W. Finnie (L), 1,801.
BERWICKSHIRE. 1.—Major E. Baillie Hamilton (C), 738; Mr. W. Miller (L), 674.
CLACKMANNAN AND KINROSS. 1.—Mr. W. P. Adam (L), 964; Mr. J. R. Haig (C), 468.
DUMFRIES. 1.—Mr. Orr Ewing (C), 995; Mr. J. W. Burns (L), 942.
ELGIN AND NAIRN. 1.—Lord Macduff (L), 289; Hon. Colonel J. Grant (C), 619.
FALKIRK BURGH. 1.—Mr. J. Ramsay (L), 2,583; Mr. Alex. Baird (C), 1,968.
FIFE. 1.—Sir R. Anstruther (L), 1,859; Sir Fred. Hamilton (C), 1,231.
LANARKSHIRE (SOUTH). 1.—Sir Wyndham C. Anstruther (C), 1,347; Major Hamilton (L), 1,326.
PERTSHIRE. 1.—Sir W. Stirling Maxwell (C), 2,554; Mr. C. S. Parker (L), 2,060.
ROXBURGHSHIRE. 1.—Sir G. Douglas (C), 789; Marquis of Bowmont (L), 763.
WICK BURGH. 1.—Mr. Pender (L), 857; Professor Bryce (L), 730.

IRELAND.

ANTRIM COUNTY. 2.—Mr. James Chaine (C), 4,356; Hon. E. O'Neill (C), 4,142; Mr. C. H. Wilson (L), 4,009.
CAVAN COUNTY. 2.—Mr. Fay (HR), 3,229; Mr. Biggar (HR), 3,079; Mr. E. J. Sanderson (L), 2,310.
CLARE COUNTY. 2.—Sir S. O'Loughlin (L, H.R.), 3,095; Lord F. Conyngham (H.R.), 2,565; Colonel Vandeleur (C), 1,240.
DONEGAL COUNTY. 2.—Marquis of Hamilton (C), 2,002; Mr. T. Conolly (C), 1,866; Mr. Evory Kennedy (L), 1,826; Mr. Tristram Kennedy (L), 1,736.
FERMANAGH. 2.—Mr. W. Archdall (C), 2,099; Colonel Cole (C), 2,000; Mr. Porter (L), 1,404; Captain Barton (L), 1,098.
GAULWAY COUNTY. 2.—Captain Nolan (HR), 2,848; Mr. Mitchell Henry (HR), 2,870; Mr. Carey (HR), 1,076.

KILDARE COUNTY. 2.—Mr. C. H. Meldon (H.R.), 1,256; Right Hon. W. Cogan (L), 934; Lord O. Fitzgerald (L), 727; Captain Morgan (H.R.), 226.
KING'S COUNTY. 2.—Sir P. O'Brien (HR), 2,009; Serjeant Sherlock (HR), 1,266; Mr. Molloy (HR), 758.

LONDONDERRY COUNTY. 2.—Professor Smyth (L), 2,988; Mr. Law, Q.C. (L), 2,701; Mr. J. B. Beresford (C), 1,747; Mr. R. J. Alexander (C), 1,402.
LIMERICK COUNTY. 2.—Mr. O'Sullivan (HR), 3,521; Mr. E. J. Synan (L), 2,856; Mr. Kelly (HR), 995.

LONGFORD COUNTY. 2.—Mr. O'Reilly (L), 1,811; Mr. G. Errington (L), 1,740; Mr. Slater (LC), 472; Captain M'Calmont (retired), 26.

LOUTH COUNTY. 2.—Mr. A. M. Sullivan (HR), 1,250; Mr. P. Callan (HR), 1,202; Right Hon. C. Fortescue (L), 602; Mr. O'Reilly Dease (L), 265.

MONAGHAN COUNTY. 2.—Mr. J. Leslie (C), 2,481; Mr. S. E. Shirley (C), 2,417; Mr. Madden (HR), 2,105.

TIPPERARY. 2.—Colonel Hon. C. White (L), 2,835; Hon. W. O'Callaghan (L), 2,835; Mr. R. Butler, 2,108; Mr. John Mitchell, 1,785; Mr. George Roe, 705; Mr. Peter Gill, 685 (Home Rulers).

TYRONE COUNTY. 2.—Mr. J. W. Macartney (C), 4,710; Mr. H. W. Corry (C), 4,057; Lord Claud Hamilton (C), 2,907.

WATERFORD COUNTY. 2.—Lord Charles Beresford (C), 1,767; Sir J. Esmonde (L), 1,390; Mr. A. P. Longbottom (HR), 446.

WESTMEATH. 2.—Mr. P. J. Smyth (HR), 2,202; Lord R. Montagu (C, HR), 2,164; Captain Greville (L), 410; Sir E. Levinge (L), 328.

The return of the polling in Wexford county, which took place yesterday, and will complete the roll of the new House of Commons, is expected to be made known to-day.

LIBERAL GAINS.

Abingdon	1	Hartlepool	1
Barnstaple	1	Hull	1
Blackburn	1	Londonderry County	2
Bolton	1	Mayo	1
Boston	2	Newry	1
Cavan County	1	Pembroke Boroughs	1
Clare County	1	Poole	1
Coleraine	1	Renfrewshire	1
Coventry	1	Shrewsbury	2
Derbyshire (South)	1	Southampton	1
Down County	1	Stafford	1
Droitwich	1	Stockport	1
Dungannon	1	Stroud	1
Dungarvan	1	Westbury	1
Durham	1	Worcester	1
Durham, North	1	Yorkshire (N.W.)	1
Elgin and Nairn	1		
Falmouth	2	Total	39
Galway County	1		

CONSERVATIVE GAINS.

Andover	1	Lewes	1
Ayr Burghs	1	Lincoln	1
Ayrshire (South)	1	Lincolnshire (Mid)	1
Ayrshire (North)	1	Lincolnshire (North)	1
Bedford	1	London (City of)	3
Belfast	1	Maldon	1
Berwick	1	Manchester	1
Berwickshire	1	Marylebone	1
Brighton	2	Middlesex	1
Buckingham (B.)	1	Monmouth Dis.	1
Bury St. Edmunds	1	Newcastle-on-Tyne	1
Cambridge	2	Northampton	1
Canterbury	1	Norwich	1
Cardiganshire	1	Nottingham	2
Carmarthen Boroughs	1	Oldham	1
Carmarthenshire	1	Partshire	1
Carnarvonshire	1	Petersfield	1
Chatham	1	Plymouth	1
Chelsea	1	Portsmouth	1
Cheltenham	1	Roxburghshire	1
Christchurch	1	Salisbury	1
Colchester	1	Scarborough	1
Cornwall (East)	1	Stafford, North	1
Cricklade	1	Stalybridge	1
Derbyshire (East)	1	Stirlingshire	1
Devonport	2	St. Ives	1
Dublin (City)	1	Stoke-on-Trent	1
Edinburghshire	1	Surrey (East)	1
Essex, South	2	Sussex (East)	1
Exeter	1	Tower Hamlets	1
Frome	1	Wakefield	1
Glasgow	1	Warrington	1
Gloucester (West)	1	Waterford County	1
Grantham	1	Westmeath	1
Gravesend	1	Westminster	1
Grimsby	1	Wigan	2
Guildford	1	Wigton Burghs	1
Hertfordshire	1	Wilts (North)	1
Horsham	1	Wilts (South)	1
Inverness District	1	Winchester	1
Ipswich	2	Windsor	1
Kidderminster	1	Worcester (East)	1
Knarborough	1	Yorkshire (S.W.)	1
Lanarkshire (South)	1		
Leeds	1	Total	97
		Less Liberal gains	39
		Net Conservative gains	58

SPECIAL ELECTION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEVON AND CORNWALL.

Exeter, Monday.

The county elections are now over, and the result somewhat increases the balance in favour of the Tories. The representation of the Devon division

remains as before, but the Liberal loss in the larger borough seats has been heavy. The smaller ones—Tiverton, Barnstaple, and Tavistock—have been true to the Liberal side with improvements. In some of the derelict boroughs, such as Plymouth and Devonport, the Liberals can hardly believe that the entire representation has slipped out of their hands. Still, some of the county Liberals have been indulging in a waking dream of a possible contest in the Northern Division, should Sir Stafford Northcote take office under the coming Tory Government; but the movement would not be very promising. It would, however, be rather a tempting opportunity, as, whatever the result, nothing would be lost, and there would be a chance of seeing a Liberal reaction. In one electoral centre Mr. E. A. Bowring's name has been mentioned, and his votes in the House in favour of Nonconformists are remembered with the assurance that he might reckon upon the support of every Dissenter in that part of the county. At a former election the Liberal candidate did get in by their agency, and what has been might be again with a good candidate.

The election for the Eastern Division of Cornwall has kept up the public interest during the week. The candidates have been much questioned, and have thereby come into living contact with certain important subjects, a very different thing from merely reading about them in print. Prominently, by the side of tenant right and the rabbit question, points affecting the Church and Dissent have been brought forward. We mentioned last week the obtrusion of the hon. sec. of a Local Church Defence Association upon candidates with his Church Preservation mania, an interference little relished in the latitude of Cornwall. "Pope Kitson" was spoken of in not very complimentary terms, and one of the Liberal candidates referred to some placard that had been circulated, as exposing the author to an action for libel. One of the Tory candidates had to defend himself from a charge of injustice to some tenants, showing the need of a Tenant Right Bill, and the other from having a "tendency to Popery." Mr. Tremayne, who had to acknowledge to having had a condition inserted in a lease that no religious meetings should be held in a certain farm, was also shown to have caused the removal of a Wesleyan chapel from a part of his property, and afterwards refusing a grant of land anywhere on his estates to build another. This, however, did not prevent his election on Friday, when the ballot terminating the contest showed Sir Colman Rashleigh, the Liberal, at the head of the poll, and Mr. Tremayne, Conservative, second. By this election the Liberals lose a seat, which is the more to be regretted as it will somewhat tarnish the good character of the county, which sent four men of the right stamp to represent it in the last Parliament. The local Liberals think the loss of the seat is mainly due to their second candidate being comparatively unknown until this election, while the Tory winner was a county man, with one of the three Cornish prefixes, "Tre, Pen, Pol," in his name. The Tories, too, proved themselves smarter hands at the canvassing business, for while the Liberals trusted that delicate work to local and parochial committees, their competitors had paid agents. The sum of the whole matter is that Devonshire returns in the whole eleven Tories and six Liberals; in 1868 there were eleven Liberals and six Tories. Cornwall sends eight Liberals and five Tories, being one more of the latter colour than at the former general election. The Tory majority in the two counties is two, which, though a small number, is two too many in a quarter where they were too strong before.

WEST OF SCOTLAND.

Glasgow, Monday.

To the Parliament elected in 1868 Scotland sent fifty-three representatives pledged to support Mr. Gladstone's scheme of Church disestablishment in Ireland, and only seven to vote against it; for the Parliament summoned to meet next month it has elected only forty-one avowed friends and followers, and nineteen opponents of the great Liberal chief. But it is only from a section of the country that the Tories have derived their gains. Excluding the Universities from consideration, the constituencies north of the Forth have voted as they did at the last general election; the loss in Perthshire has been counterbalanced by the triumph in Morayshire, and the relative strength of the two parties is precisely the same as formerly—viz., twenty-two Liberals to two Tories. But in the Southern and South-Western districts a remarkable change has occurred. Instead of there being twenty-eight Liberals to five Tories, as in 1868, the Liberals have a bare majority, counting only seventeen against their opponents' fifteen. In the greater portion of the district north of the Forth, the Established Church includes little more than one-third of the population; in the south and south-western districts of the country its chief strength is to be found. Keeping these facts in view, therefore, may it not fairly be inferred that Scotch Dissent has proved faithful to the statesman who has been the first to give practical application to the principle of religious equality? For of this fact there can be no question—the debates and resolutions of the assemblies convened since 1868 furnish undoubted proof of it—and the chiefs of the Liberal party ought to note it—that the Establishment, as an institution, has transferred its influence almost entirely to the reactionary party in the State. Even in Synods and Presbyteries, where the patrons are heretofore Whigs or Liberals, some parish ministers, thoroughly alarmed by the Irish Church precedent,

have not hesitated, if not to preach undisguised Toryism, at least fiercely to denounce any unholy alliance with the advocates of religious equality, whom they find it convenient to class with Atheists and Revolutionists. In this work they have been assisted by the Tory anti-union section of the Free Church; but the results of the elections, even in the southern counties, show that they have not been anything like completely successful in driving their flocks to the Tory folds; for most of the Tory gains have been won by very narrow majorities, for which an unfair exercise of landlord influence rather than clerical zeal is to be held responsible.

The Lord Advocate's defeat in the Wigtown Burghs, although only by two votes, is by far the heaviest blow the Liberal party has sustained in Scotland during the past election. Hitherto his lordship's seat was regarded as secure, but ever since the passing of his Education Act, the so-called friends of religious education in the burghs, stirred into activity by the deputations of "reactionaries" from Edinburgh have been conspiring against him, and the dissolution which took the Liberals by surprise found them fully prepared and organised. The result was that, aided by the short-sighted policy of a Glasgow Liberal paper, having a large and influential circulation in the south, which insisted that the Lord Advocate should be punished for his connection with the act of discourtesy shown to the late Sheriff Bell by Mr. Lowe, they managed to deprive of a seat the ablest man and most zealous law reformer Scotland has sent to Parliament for many a year. Another unpleasant defeat was the rejection of Major Hamilton in South Lanarkshire. In this case the causes of defeat, barring the Bell incident, were the same as in the Wigtown Burghs. While Major Hamilton was faithfully discharging his Parliamentary duties in London, his Tory opponent, Sir William Anstruther, was busily canvassing the constituency—attending all sorts of meetings and demonstrations, patronising parish cattle-shows and local institutions, and seeking to rouse the Protestantism of the people into a condemnation of what he declares, in spite of facts to the contrary as clear as daylight, the godless and atheistical Education Act, which the Liberals have forced upon an unwilling country. But in the midst of so much discouragement and disappointment the Liberals can point to one signal triumph. In the Falkirk Burghs they have beaten off the Conservative candidate, Mr. Alexander Baird, of Ury, supported though he was by all the local influence and great wealth which the Baird family possess, and in this election lavishly used in support of their name and their principles. But notwithstanding a heavy Conservative vote in Airdrie, in the neighbourhood of which are situated one of the most extensive of Messrs. Baird's own coal works, the burghs refused to worship the golden calf, and, by a majority of upwards of 800, they placed at the top of the poll Mr. Ramsay, a well-known and steady Liberal, who understands the question of church-rates, as well as of education.

NORTHERN SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen, Monday Afternoon.

The Wick Burghs have failed to do Parliament and the country the service of returning Professor Bryce. Mr. Pender, the old Moderate Liberal member, goes back to Westminster, his election having been carried by a fair majority. Mr. Pender had little to commend him to the independent electors of the northern towns, except that he has promised them valuable aid in the shape of railway accommodation. But the wishes of Dunrobin Castle are still sufficient to determine the political conduct of a large body of electors in the southern burghs, and Wick was not strong enough to turn the scale. The Inverness Burghs have rejected Mr. Mackintosh, of Raigmore, a very slow-going Whig, and returned Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, a recent convert from Toryism, who, it is hoped, will be a little more advanced than his predecessor, though his election turned mainly on purely local considerations, and his political education is clearly not yet carried to a satisfactory stage. Morayshire has, as was fully expected, relinquished the Toryism with which it has been content for the past forty years, and will henceforth be numbered among Liberal constituencies. The whole of the northern and north-eastern counties of Scotland, with the single exception of Inverness (which has escaped through its unmanageable size and the suddenness of the dissolution), have now been emancipated from the Tory yoke, and their Liberalism—especially that of the north-eastern counties—is of a very distinct and thorough-going type. By the way, as the matter is of some importance—I must correct a telegraphic blunder in my communication of last week. Mr. McCombie, the member for West Aberdeenshire, was returned—not by the comparatively insignificant majority of 821; he obtained eight votes for every single vote given for Mr. Edward Ross, the nominee of the Tory lairds. This fact in some degree indicates the completeness with which Liberal principles have taken root in the north-eastern counties. The game grievance has doubtless had much to do with the bringing about the present state of matters; but during the recent campaign the great questions connected with the Church and the school have also been brought prominently to the front. In the rural districts the question of disestablishment is making marked progress; and most of the candidates have been severely scrutinised as to their views on it. The result is that most of the north-eastern members

from Forfarshire to Banffshire inclusive have avowed themselves defenders of the principle of Establishments. (Mr. McCombie, who was prevented by the state of his health from meeting the electors, and who is a member of the Church of Scotland, has for the present escaped being questioned.) The Education Act is being on the whole harmoniously carried out in the rural districts, though it is generally found to leave the training of the young as completely in the hands of the Established Church as it was under the whole system.

THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

Our Ulster correspondent writes as follows:—This has been an exciting week, and a disastrous week too, for the landlord class who have so long had it all their own way in Ulster. First came the election for Tyrone, where the house of Abercorn have so long borne sway; Lord Claude Hamilton, who has represented the constituency for some thirty-eight years, had to give way to Mr. McCartney, who had well nigh two thousand votes more than the former. Mr. McCartney calls himself an independent Conservative; he is a man of large means—a friend of tenant right, and an Evangelical Episcopalian.

In Donegal Mr. Connolly took his seat by the small majority of forty over Dr. Kennedy—which is a premonition of coming defeat. Indeed, it is believed that, notwithstanding superior organisation and the possession of the landlord class, if but one Liberal had come forward he would have gone in without difficulty; but, contrary to the advice of friends, the Kennedy brothers determined to "stand or fall together"; hence the return of the two Conservatives.

Antrim, which has been the most exclusively Tory of all the northern counties, was contested by a tenant farmer, who scored within one hundred and thirty-three votes of the Hon. Charles O'Neill. Mr. Wilson, however, was late coming into the field, and had to endure his share of public odium for daring to trespass upon the landlords' manor. Here Sir Richard Wallace took a leading part on the Tory side, and went so far as to ask "Who was Mr. Wilson's father?" to which he has had the pertinent question in reply, "Could Sir Richard tell who his own father was? and if so, could he tell who his mother was?" Surely of all men it ill becomes Sir Richard to descend to personalities; and the feeling is that he has come off only second best.

In Londonderry the Conservatives have been smitten hip and thigh—the Rev. Dr. Smyth and Mr. Hugh Law, the Solicitor-General, have been returned by large majorities over the Messrs. Beresford and Alexander. Dr. Smyth polled 2,988, Mr. Law, 2,701, whilst Beresford had but 1,747 and Alexander 1,402. This is the reply of the most enlightened constituency in Ulster to Mr. Disraeli's speech at Buckingham, in which he described the Church and Land Acts as founded on "violence and spoliation," and this speech, I doubt not, contributed to the Liberal majorities being so decisive. There is now no doubt at all that Conservatism has lost its hold in Ulster, and all that is needed to annihilate it, would be an attempt on the part of the Tory party to undo the work of Mr. Gladstone. I am persuaded that there is not a county in Ulster that would not have sent in to Parliament, at least one Liberal, if the people in remoter districts could have been led to place full confidence in the secrecy of the ballot; but they have been so long accustomed to believe not only in the omnipotence but the omniscience of the landlords and squires, that from dread of supposed contingencies they voted in several cases contrary to their own inclinations. Armagh and Monaghan returned their old members. In Fermanagh there is a contest that is not yet decided, but it is hardly possible for the Independent candidate, Mr. Fortis, to win. He will have the whole weight of the Orange vote against him, and he is not, in the opinion of many, a very suitable candidate; a few hours will decide, however. The only other election in Ulster to come off is Cavan, which takes place on Monday. There Mr. Sanderson, a thoroughly good and useful man—a Liberal in sentiment and procedure, though I believe classed with the Conservatives—seeks re-election. There are two Home Rulers in the field. This is the only place in the north where Home Rule seeks the suffrages of the electors. You will have seen that Mr. Fortescue was at the foot of the poll in Louth; though a friend of Mr. Gladstone and a member of the Government, his failure is regarded by Liberals here with undisguised satisfaction. He got his position by pandering to the Ultramontane party, tried to serve them in every way, but when he failed to accomplish all the Romish priests desired, they cast him off. We hope most heartily that Mr. Fortescue's name shall not appear in the list of any future Liberal Government. But we are looking too far ahead; another Liberal Government, though of course possible, is, alas! to all appearance, distant! And yet how a Conservative Government can get on with the North and South of Ireland arrayed against them is hard to divine. I confess I am rather pleased at the prospect of Mr. Disraeli having the first round with the Home Rule men of the south. Probably after that, he will have changed his view as to the way in which Ireland should be governed; and they may have reduced their demands. I only fear that the Conservative Prime Minister may try to hold his place by yielding to Ultramontane demands in regard to education. This is the danger ahead.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

It is stated that a petition against the return of Mr. Holms and Mr. Reed for Hackney has been lodged.

It appears that a number of petitions are likely to be presented against Irish election returns, and that some of them will assume the form of special cases for the Irish Court of Common Pleas, arising out of informalities in the conduct of elections under the novel process of the ballot.

The Launceston election return will be petitioned against, on the ground of treating and intimidation. It will be remembered that Mr. Deakin is owner of the Werrington estate, the owner of which has returned the members for the borough of Launceston for the past 300 years.

Up to Saturday no election petition had been filed, but one from Bath and other places are expected. After the last general election sixty-nine were lodged, but it is doubtful whether so many will be presented on the present occasion.

Testimonials to some of the recently defeated candidates for seats in Parliament are being got up. Among the late members who are to receive them are Mr. White and Mr. Fawcett at Brighton, and Mr. Otway at Chatham. It is stated that Mr. Fawcett has made up his mind not again to stand for Brighton, but that Mr. White will come forward if opportunity should be offered. The Liberals of the Monmouth Boroughs also intend to present a testimonial to the defeated candidate, Mr. Pochin.

Lord Sandon, the senior member for Liverpool, enjoys the distinction of having received the largest number of votes—viz., 20,206, while Mr. Dawson Damer, at the other end of the scale, sits for Portarlington by virtue of seventy-six votes.

Admiral Elliot is expected to retire for Chatham, to make way for Sir John Pakington.

No less than twenty arrests have been made in connection with the election riots at Cinderford, Forest of Dean. It appears that in the midst of the excitement and disturbance of the election, hot water was thrown on the mob, and this led them to smash the windows of many houses.

It is stated as probable that Mr. Callan, who has been elected for Louth and Dundalk, will retire from the latter borough, which will be contested by the O'Gorman Mahon, Home-Ruler, and Mathews, Conservative Home-Ruler.

It is stated that Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Conservative member for Denbighshire, will be offered a peerage by the new Conservative Government. If he accepts it the Liberals will contest the vacant seat.

The Conservatives of Stroud have determined to petition against the return of Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Stanton, on the ground of bribery, treating, and the employment of voters.

The members of the Labour Representation League have resolved to present an address on vellum to the two working men M.P.'s. They are to be entertained at a public dinner.

The *Tablet* says:—"The increase in the Catholic vote will be one of the most practical and substantial triumphs of the election for 1874. Ireland had only thirty-seven Catholic members (Mr. Monsell's place being then vacant) when the Parliament was dissolved; the new Parliament will open with forty-nine; and if the vacancy in Galway, caused by the succession of Lord St. Lawrence to the Earldom of Howth, be filled by a Catholic, the Catholic strength will be fifty members, the largest number that was ever sent from Ireland, while two Catholic seats, Sligo and Cashel, are disfranchised. Catholics will rank next to Episcopalian Protestant members, and above Presbyterians, or those of any single Protestant sect, but will still be considerably under half their due share."

The Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie has issued a farewell address to the electors of the Kilmarnock district burghs. A whole generation has passed away, he says, since he was first chosen as their representative, and during that time he has seen established, after much conflict, entire freedom of trade, freedom of the Press, religious equality before the law, and a large extension of political liberty; and he should always be grateful to the electors that through their choice he had been able to co-operate in the House of Commons in effecting these vast improvements by means of legislation. He had valued their confidence, and should have been proud to retain it, but he should never have been willing to purchase it at the cost of his self-respect by silence at priestly oppression, by subservience to an unscrupulous local faction, or by simulated approbation in Parliament of acts and methods of administration which, in spite of the prevalence of Liberal opinions, have alienated the country, disorganised the Liberal party, and at last destroyed a once powerful Government.

MR. EDWARD BAINES.—A numerous deputation of the friends of temperance in Leeds waited on Mr. Baines at the *Mercury* office on Thursday morning, and presented an address to him expressing their sincere regret that by the result of the recent election for the borough he was no longer one of the representatives of Leeds in Parliament, and stating that they felt this the more strongly because the division in the Liberal party, to which the result was owing, was mainly due to the unwise candidature of a gentleman who, though not brought forward on temperance grounds or by temperance men, would yet, from his name being well known among such, inevitably draw from them some support. In reply, Mr. Baines spoke at some length on the temperance question and the position he had taken in reference to the Permissive Bill.

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.—The result of the agitation by the United Kingdom Alliance has, to say the least, been extremely unfavourable to the interests of temperance. We believe that more brewers, and others interested in the maintenance of the drink traffic, have been returned to the present House of Commons than ever sat in Parliament at once before. That this is to a large extent the consequence of the fatal policy pursued by the United Kingdom Alliance, is a fact patent to all who have watched the progress of the elections.—*Leeds Mercury*.

Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., took the chair at a banquet which was held at Maidstone on Saturday, to celebrate the return of Lord Holmesdale and Mr. Hart Dyke for Mid Kent. In proposing the toast of the evening, Mr. Hardy said that the Conservative party desired peace, but they disdained the idea of peace at any price—of peace purchased at the expense of national humiliation. They were in favour of economy, but they did not advocate the principle that subordinates in the Government service should be badly paid. They were in favour of reform, but they had no sympathy with reforms of a character calculated to subvert our institutions, or with change for the mere sake of change.

At a crowded meeting at Northampton the other evening, Mr. Bradlaugh pledged himself to again contest the borough. He believed the next five years would witness great changes with regard to landed property. It would have to be shown that the right to live was greater than the rights of property. If he were not allowed to enter Parliament he would see what a few hundred thousands outside St. Stephen's could do. He asserted that the dissolution had been hastened to ensure his defeat.

At a dinner given, on Tuesday, at Willis's Rooms, London, for the benefit of the University College Hospital, the Earl of Derby, who presided, said, in answer to a remark from Sir Francis Goldsmid, in proposing the noble earl's health, that the country would more gladly see him Premier than they would many other noblemen or gentlemen whose names could be mentioned—"Sir Francis has thrown over me a fly very skilfully, but I don't mean to rise. All I can say is, that I go in for fair play, and think that he who has fought the battle so well ought to enjoy the victory."

Mr. Chichester Fortescue has issued a farewell address to the electors of Louth. He says he regrets that none of them had ever given him notice that they had withdrawn their confidence. Had he been made aware that his inability to pronounce the shibboleth of Home Rule would outweigh all memory of past services, he would have sought another constituency, and saved the necessity for a contest. He has, he says, contributed to his own rejection by helping to pass the recent great measures of reform; but that rejection does not in the smallest degree alter his conviction of the wisdom and justice of those measures. In spite of the storm of agitation which had just swept over Ireland, and in spite of the suppressed Fenianism which makes use of the Home-Rule movement for its own purposes, he is convinced that Mr. Gladstone's policy has strengthened the anti-revolutionary forces of the country, and laid a solid foundation of future prosperity for Ireland.

No Roman Catholic has been returned for England. We know not, indeed, that there was a candidate of that Church.

It is said that Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P. for the St. Andrew Burghs, will be raised to the peerage, and that the Lord-Advocate, Mr. George Young, will be a candidate for the seat.

Viscount Bury, eldest son of the Earl of Albemarle, who formerly represented Norwich and Berwick in the Liberal interest, has recently joined the Conservative party. The Earl of Albemarle still adheres, however, to the Liberal party.

The Speaker of the late House of Commons was present at the annual dinner of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Chamber of Agriculture, on Saturday evening. The right hon. gentleman, in responding to the toast of his health, expressed a hope that the question of local taxation might, before long, be settled upon a broad and satisfactory basis. He was in favour of the ratepayer being represented upon county financial boards. A demand has been made for the repeal of the malt-tax: but, while he did not deny that there were objections to this impost, he reminded his hearers that the surplus must be dealt with in the interests of the people at large, and that to abolish the duty on malt would absorb the surplus and something more.

It is said that there are in the new Parliament fifty-seven brewers or persons who have a direct interest in breweries.

The *Spectator* is authorised to deny that Sir Fowell Buxton's candidature for Westminster was supported by the Licensed Victuallers. It seems that they supported almost unanimously the Conservative candidates. "Sir Fowell Buxton, though a partner in a great brewery, was too sincere an advocate of the public interest to be regarded as the advocate of the publicans' interest."

There will be sixty-eight railway directors in the new Parliament.

It is stated that Mr. Arthur Sullivan has promised to write a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, with orchestral accompaniments, for use at the next Festival of the Sons of the Clergy in St. Paul's Cathedral.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A telegram from New Westminster states that the British Columbia Cabinet has resigned.

A Rome telegram announces the death of Tarquini, the Jesuit, one of the recently made Cardinals.

The German Emperor having been asked to guarantee a regency in Brunswick in the event of the death of the present duke, has refused to do so.

Kossuth is very comfortably off at Milan, and in receipt of a pension from the Italian Government, while two of his sons occupy respectable positions as engineers.

It is stated that Cardinal Antonelli has verbally advised the French bishops to act with moderation and prudence in reference to the German Government.

M. Schneider, the former President of the French Legislative Body, and the director of the iron-foundries at La Creuzot, has had a stroke of apoplexy, but hopes are entertained of his recovery.

The Emperor of Austria arrived at St. Petersburg on Friday, and was accompanied by the Czar, and other members of the royal family, who had received His Majesty at the Gatchina station.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs a statement that the rural Protestant clergy in Prussia are beginning an active agitation against the Civil Marriage Bill.

Though no official announcement has yet been made, it is considered certain that the Emperor of Russia will visit London this season, arriving about the 1st of May.

It is telegraphed from Berlin that preparations are being made to secure funds for the construction of the projected Central Asia Railway with the assistance of one of the leading firms of Paris and London.

A Panama telegram brings news of a number of refractory Chinese labourers on the Costa Rica railway works having been fired upon by soldiers, six of their number being killed and nine wounded. The officer in command of the troops was to be tried by court-martial.

It is stated that General Ignatieff, who is still staying at St. Petersburg, has submitted to the Emperor of Russia a memorial on the condition of Turkey, which will form the subject of deliberations to be held during the visit of the Emperor of Austria.

It has been decided by the Supreme Ecclesiastical Court of Berlin, in the action against Archbishop Ledochowski, that the public prosecutor's indictment be communicated to the defendant, who shall at the same time be cited to appear and undergo an oral examination.

Two years' imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 francs has been the sentence passed on M. Raspail, for publishing, in the "*Almanac Météorologique*," an apology for acts which the law holds to be crimes. M. Raspail's son, for participation in the offence, is condemned to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 500 francs.

GERMANY AND ITALY.—Prince Bismarck, says the *Presse* of Vienna, has authorised Count de Larmay, the Italian Minister, to convey his cordial thanks to Signor Visconti-Venosta, for the friendly tone of his recent declaration in the Italian Chamber on the unpleasant La Marmora incident.

DISCOVERY OF THE TRUE MOUNT SINAI.—The following telegram has been received from Cairo, dated Feb. 16:—"Dr. Beke, the English traveller, reports from the Gulf of Akaba that he has found the true Mount Sinai one day's journey north-east of Akaba. It is called by the Arabs, Jebel el Nur, or Mountain of Light. Its height is 5,000 feet. On the summit Dr. Beke found the remains of sacrificed animals, and lower down some Sinaitic inscriptions, which he copied."

THE CANADIAN ELECTIONS.—It is stated in a telegram from Toronto that the Government has obtained large majorities at the elections in all the provinces, and that out of 206 members not fifty will belong to the Opposition. The *Toronto Globe* says that the Ministry of British Columbia has tried to force an alteration of the terms of the Confederation upon the people, and that the sitting of the House was broken up amid extreme excitement. The *Globe* adds that a demand for a demand for a dissolution has been made.

THE EXTINCTION OF POLAND.—The very name of the Kingdom of Poland having just been changed into that of the province of Warsaw, a portion of its Eastern districts will be shortly embodied with the adjoining provinces of Russia Proper. By this change the inhabitants of the annexed districts will lose the right of using the Polish language in their intercourse with the subordinate authorities—the only privilege still reminding them of their former independence.—*Times Berlin Correspondent*.

A LADY'S WINTER ASCENT OF THE JUNGFRAU.—The *Swiss Times* reports that Miss Brewood, an American lady, has just successfully accomplished the ascent of the Jungfrau. The party consisted of thirteen persons, amongst them an English tourist; and a gallant dog accompanied them. The lady in her mountain expedition has the dangerous and difficult portions of the tract made practicable, and is occasionally drawn on a light sledge, whilst two of the guides aid her whilst she is walking. The fatigue of her expeditions is thus reduced to the minimum.

M. ROUHER ON THE SEPTENNAT.—A letter of M. Rouher to a Bonapartist journal has been published, in which M. Rouher urges that the "Septennat" should be respected, because it leaves the future entirely free and is the definite expression of the

will of the country. He regrets, however, that Marshal MacMahon is not better protected in his impartiality against paltry intrigues. The "Septennat" is a truce, and all parties ought not to use it as a screen to conceal their ambitious designs. A direct appeal to the national sovereignty is necessary to repair the disasters caused by the insurrection of the 4th of September. The people would then have only to decide between the Republic and the Empire. M. Rouher recommends that the interests of order should never be separated from those of democracy.

DR. WICHEHN'S "ROUGH-HOUSE."—The Rough-house (*das rauhe haus*), founded by Dr. Wichern, celebrated this year its fortieth anniversary. On Nov. 1, 1833, Wichern, a young minister, commenced with his mother the education of destitute children in a little straw-thatched house in Horn, not far from Hamburg, and which was formerly called the "Rough-house." This little institution has been, under the Divine blessing, so successful that above 1,000 children from the lower and higher classes have been received into Wichern's different institutions. Every twelve or fifteen live under the oversight of a gentleman or lady helper in one house, by which arrangement an attempt is made to introduce in some measure family life. But out of the assistants or brethren who thus stand in the service of the children, an institution for members has grown, in which young persons are trained for the service of the inner mission, and lately also for mission work among the Germans in America, and are then sent forth according to their gifts either as heads of travellers' homes, rescue-houses, poor-houses, and hospitals, or as city missionaries and the like. The membership of the "Rough House" numbers above 400. Since 1858 the Johannestift at Berlin has been founded as an affiliated branch of the Hamburg Rough-house.

THE KING OF ASHANTEE.—A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes:—"King Koffee is about thirty-five years old, and has the true kingly air, though much seamed with smallpox. 'You could not mistake him,' says Mr. Kuhne, 'though he were surrounded with chiefs. He has the eye of a king.' But the savage luxury of his life and the great harem he keeps up have sapped such energy as his appearance leads one to believe he must have had. His mother—to whom the throne belongs of right, and who chose this favourite son to fill her place—has great influence over him. She is a prudent, though a warlike woman, and her power is likely to be used in favour of concession. The Ashantee Empire is rapidly declining. Even the numbers of the population cannot increase under the terrible drain of sacrifice and war. The cabocers still profess to put into the field the same number of retainers as did their forefathers fifty years since, but in reality they cannot muster much above the half. I find that Colonel Festing's prisoner spoke truth about that king who answered the summons of war from Inkoranza, on the borders of the Sahara. Such a distant vassal did indeed march with the invaders, but his 10,000 men of paper were represented by only 1,100 of flesh and blood. The magnificence described by Bowditch, if it ever existed, has dwindled with the decaying power of the State. The king has still his ornaments and regalia, which would make a pretty loot, but he is hard pushed for money sometimes, and his 'dashes,' or presents, become yearly meagre. The sacred treasure in Bantama, where the tombs of the kings lie, is supposed to be still intact, but Mr. Kuhne is not inclined to think it such a large sum as might be expected. At the outbreak of every war the king is allowed to draw upon this fund, but the amount so abstracted he is bound to restore. The question is whether this law has been strictly observed."

Epitome of News.

The Queen and royal family returned to Windsor yesterday.

Preparations are making at Gravesend to give a suitable reception to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who are expected to land at that place on Saturday, March 7th, at eleven o'clock in the morning.

The *Pull Mall Gazette* is officially informed that the Duke of Argyll has appointed Sir Louis Mallet, C.B., to be the permanent Under-Secretary of State at the India Office in succession to the late Mr. Herman Merivale. The vacancy in the Council of India, caused by this appointment, has been filled by the selection of Sir George Campbell, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for a seat in that body.

Mr. Pales, the attorney-general, has accepted the vacant office of Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland.

Mr. Bright, in reply to a Birmingham elector, writes that when it is necessary to discuss the question of Home Rule in Ireland he shall not shrink from giving his views upon it. At present it scarcely offers itself in any definite shape.

With the object of procuring the repeal of the passenger duty, amounting to five per cent. on first and second class fares, and affecting, under certain conditions, third class fares also, a meeting of railway directors, officers, and shareholders, was held on Monday at the offices of Sir Antonio Brady, in Cannon-street, and a movement with this end in view was set on foot.

A massive granite cross has been erected on the

spot where the late Bishop Wilberforce met his death, at Everahed's Rough, near Dorking.

The net receipt of duty on spirits during the past year was £5,645,152, showing the enormous increase of 839,357, on the year 1872.

There are no fewer than 1,187 clergymen in England and Wales performing clerical duty who are justices of the peace. These figures do not include clergymen who do not engage in the work of their calling.

Mr. George Leeman, M.P., has been elected chairman of the North-Eastern Railway Company, as the successor of Mr. H. S. Thompson.

Dr. Dudfield, the medical officer for Kensington, reports the death of a widow, in Thomas-street Pottery, Notting-hill, whose age was stated to be 102 years.

The committee of the Hayman Defence Fund have laid Dr. Hayman's case before Mr. John Powell, Q.C., and Mr. Morgan Howard, who have expressed the opinion that though the case is one of novelty and attended with difficulty, they think Dr. Hayman would be justified in asking for the decision of a court of equity upon it. It is stated that this advice will be acted upon, and that a bill in Chancery will be filed without delay. The governing body of Rugby School have fixed the 19th inst. for the election of a new headmaster. It is said there are a large number of candidates, most of them of high University and scholastic position.

The Court of Common Council have voted 1,000, towards the Mansion House fund for the relief of the Bengal famine. The fund amounted yesterday to 9,000, promises of 10,000 more having been made.

A singular accident has happened to Sir Greville Symth. He went into the stable to see a favourite horse. He generally takes with him a lump or two of sugar, which he gives to the horse, but on this occasion he forgot the sugar, and while caressing the horse, the animal, probably angered at not getting his usual sweet morsel, suddenly turned on the baronet, seized him by the throat, and severely tore the flesh. The laceration was considerable, but no serious results are apprehended.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn is still proceeding with his summing-up of the Tichborne case. It is remarked that he "is constructing an entirely new narrative, and guiding the jury to deductions on many points not heretofore noticed." He is expected to conclude his charge on Friday.

A luncheon was given at the Cannon-street Hotel on Friday, to afford an opportunity to gentlemen interested in the supply of meat to this country to judge of the quality and value of mutton, geese, turkey, fowls, &c., imported from Hungary, preserved in ice. It was stated that the mutton could be delivered in London at the rate of three-pence-halfpenny per pound, and that the fowls would not exceed in retail cost a shilling apiece.

At a fire in Carnaby-street, Golden-square, on Sunday, two or three lives were lost, one by actual burning; another by a desperate leap from a second-floor window; while the injuries sustained by several persons in their attempt at escape threaten to be fatal.

Mr. Gladstone has intimated his intention to present about 200 volumes of classical and theological works to the unattached students' library which is now in course of formation at Oxford. The University voted 200, towards this object a few months ago, and several valuable additions have been received from other quarters.

Mr. Grenall, the newly-elected M.P. for Warrington, has given 1,000, towards a new hospital and dispensary.

Mr. Henry Ward, a Banbury magistrate, fell back in his seat in Christ Church, South Banbury, yesterday, and died in a very short time. Disease of the heart is supposed to have been the cause of death.

The *Liverpool Mercury* reports that while a passenger train was on its way from Southampton to Ormakirk last evening the engine became detached, and had gone some distance before the driver discovered his loss. He reversed the steam, and was in search of the missing cars when they came up suddenly, and a violent collision with the engine ensued. The guard was injured, and several of the passengers were shaken, but not seriously.

A shocking case of neglect of children was before the Blackburn magistrates on Saturday. The prisoner, Elizabeth Ann Bancroft, had systematically starved her four children. She was drunk when arrested. The bench sent her to prison for three months.

On Tuesday last a young woman named Coles attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the Basingstoke Canal near Woking station. A girl named Kate Stradwick, about ten years of age, living with her parents by the riverside, seeing this, immediately got into a boat, taking with her a plank, and pulled out to the spot. She then placed the plank on one side of the boat to balance it while she reached over the other and caught hold of the young woman by the hair of her head. With her arms resting on the side of the boat, she continued to hold her thus above the surface for fully fifteen minutes, until assistance arrived and the young woman Coles was taken from the canal in a very exhausted state.

Against the protest of many influential friends, the shareholders of the Civil Service Supply Association have, by a large majority, agreed that the profits of the business be divided, instead of being applied, as heretofore, to reducing the price of the commodities sold. In consequence of this decision

several gentlemen of note have retired from the committee of management.

Mr. Horrocks, a member of the Manchester firm of that name, one of the passengers by the Bristol express at the time of the collision at West Drayton, is still confined to his bed, suffering from concussion of the spine.

It is stated that the fortune which has been left by Baron Meyer de Rothschild, though not so large as was generally expected, is likely to exceed three millions sterling.

Difficulties which appear to be insuperable have been opposed to the Easter Monday volunteer review this year; several railway companies having represented that the largely increased traffic caused by the operation of the Bank Holiday Act will prevent the possibility of conveying large bodies of volunteer troops at the same time.

At the London Coal Market on Monday the change in the weather checked the demand for house coals, and a reduction of 1s. 6d. was submitted to. The merchants' prices for best Wallsend have been reduced to 34s.

Mr. Shirley Brooks, the well-known author, and editor of *Punch* is dangerously ill.

Mr. E. Jenkins, M.P. for Dundee, has been appointed Agent of the Dominion Government for emigration and other purposes in London.

A project is said to be under consideration for the establishing of a "News Club" for members of the press, authors, and publishers.

THE SURPLUS IN DANGER.—According to that trustworthy financial authority, the *Economist*, signs are not wanting that trade is falling off, and the national revenue decreasing. A comparison between five weeks, ending on Feb. 7, 1873 and 1874 respectively, proves a net decrease of 464,000, under six heads of revenue. Again, during the same period, there was a loss of 1,213,000, on income, being nearly equal to what was calculated as the probable decrease due to the remission of one penny duty during the whole year. These are startling facts when taken in conjunction with the purely speculative surplus on which Mr. Gladstone reckoned.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CEREBRUM.—A short pamphlet has just been published by M. Dupuy on this subject, in which he gives the details of a considerable number of experiments he has made with the view of testing the accuracy of Professor Ferrier's researches, and he has arrived at the following conclusions:—1. That it is possible, by exciting certain points of the cortical layer of the cerebrum, to obtain contractions in every limb. 2. That as a rule the fore-limb of the opposite side is that affected. 3. That the electric current must be propagated to the base of the cerebrum to excite either the nerves which arise from it, or the base itself, or the pons Varolii. 4. That if the dura mater be electrically excited, contractions are observed in the fore-leg, and generally in that of the opposite side. 5. The fact that the galvanoscopic frog is thrown into a state of contraction when its nerve touched some point of the cerebral mass far from the point excited, confirms the view that the electric current is propagated. 6. Contrary to the effects obtained by Ferrier, M. Dupuy has never been able to obtain any effects upon the tongue either of projection or retraction. 7. The whole cortical layer of the cerebrum is probably a centre of reflexion for a certain kind of sensibility capable of exerting a reflex action on motor or sensory nerves, but that its preservation is not indispensable for the manifestation of voluntary and even intelligent action. 8. In the animals on which M. Dupuy has experimented, contraction of the opposite limbs can still be produced, even after the ablation of the optic thalami and corpora striata of the opposite side to that on which the irritation is applied.—*The Academy*.

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S DEATH CONFIRMED.—The Foreign Office has received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Zanzibar, a despatch dated January 12, 1874, confirming the rumours of Dr. Livingstone's death, and stating that according to letters received from Lieutenant Cameron, Livingstone's servant, Chamah, says that after searching for some days through an extremely marshy country, in which sometimes for three hours at a time the water stood above the waists of the travellers, the doctor succumbed to an attack of dysentery, which carried him off after an illness of ten or fifteen days. During this trying journey two of his men died and several deserted. The remainder, seventy-nine in number, disembowelled his corpse and embalmed it with salt and brandy. Dr. Livingstone was on his homeward journey when stricken down, and his servants, who were ten or twenty days' march from Unyanyembe at the date of Lieutenant Cameron's letter—October 22, 1873—were nearly starving. Dr. Livingstone is said to have died at Lobosa. The messenger who brought Lieutenant Cameron's letters reports that the road from Ujiji to the coast was perfectly clear; and that, as Mirambo was entirely destitute of ammunition, nothing is to be feared from him or his adherents. In fact, he asserted that there was not a charge of powder in the whole country. Lieut. Cameron intended, as soon as possible, to start for the farthest point reached by the Doctor in 1871, and endeavour to trace the river Lualaba to its outlet. He was in hopes of getting off as soon as he had seen the body on its way to the coast. Lieutenant Cameron adds that, owing to influenza, one of the men, he had for some days been blind, and his sight was still very bad and uncertain.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H. H." Wallingford.—We have not room for a second letter on the subject.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1874.

SUMMARY.

THE general election is now finished, though the return of the polling for Wexford County, which took place yesterday, is not yet known. The complete House of Commons numbers 652; six seats having been vacant since the disfranchisement of Beverley, Bridgwater, Cashel, and Sligo, in 1870, Galway borough being without a member in consequence of the accession of Viscount St. Lawrence to the peerage, Athlone returning two gentlemen by a tie vote, and Mr. Callan having been returned for both Dundalk and the county of Louth. The num-

ber of members returned to the new Parliament is 650, 349 of whom are Conservatives, and 301 Liberals, including the Irish Home-Rulers. This would give Mr. Disraeli a compact majority of 48, which will amply suffice to place him in power as well as in office. It appears that the gross poll in the United Kingdom—187 members having been returned without a contest—was nearly two millions and a-half, an increase of a quarter of a million since 1868. Thus the abstentions must have been considerable. The *Times* states that "the 346 candidates who had to stand a contest in England and Wales received 1,306,405 votes, of which 718,545 were given to 188 Conservative members, and 587,860 to 158 Liberal members. In Scotland there were thirty-six contests, in which twenty-four Liberals polled 102,160 votes, as against 30,218 polled by twelve Conservatives; and in Ireland, where eighty-three seats were fought, 83,970 votes were given to fifty Liberal candidates, and 54,696 to thirty-three Conservatives."

Though the question of an immediate resignation of the Government, or the retention of office till the House of Commons had given a formal verdict against them, has been warmly discussed, the Cabinet has decided on the former course, and yesterday Mr. Gladstone had an audience of the Queen at Windsor to tender the resignation of himself and his colleagues, which was duly accepted. The right hon. gentleman has taken that course which his own dignity and the public convenience, if not traditional usages, recommended. The *Times* intimates, we know not on what authority, that we must be prepared for a time to see Mr. Gladstone decline the guidance of his party and withdraw from the duties he has hitherto discharged. Our information is of quite another character. Perhaps the *Times* is anxious to shelve the Liberal leader, or to test public opinion as to his possible successor—"a Minister whose character and authority would entitle him to inherit the succession." Does our contemporary point to Mr. Forster? If so, the *Times* may well add that "unanimity in the choice of a leader cannot be immediately expected." But, apart from the contingencies of the future, Mr. Gladstone's Government have, as their last act, created five new peers—Mr. Cardwell, the late Secretary at War, Mr. Chichester Fortescue, ex-Secretary for Ireland; Sir Thos. Freemantle, and Mr. Hamond, veteran civil servants of the Crown; and Lord Enfield, who may thus be consoled for his crushing defeat in Middlesex.

To-day no doubt Mr. Disraeli will receive Her Majesty's commands to form a new administration, and it is probable that some progress has already been quietly made in that direction. There seems to be no doubt that the seceders from the last Conservative Government (Lords Salisbury and Carnarvon) will enter the new Cabinet, giving to it the advantage of their administrative abilities in the India and Colonial Offices, and the impress of their Tory sentiments in the policy to be adopted. It is difficult to believe that Lord Salisbury, in particular, would become a colleague of Mr. Disraeli without having exacted definite and somewhat embarrassing pledges. Gossip assigns the difficult post of Chancellor of the Exchequer to Sir Stafford Northcote, the Board of Trade to Mr. Cross, and of course the Home Office to Mr. Gathorne Hardy, and the Foreign Office to Lord Derby. The Prime Minister will be somewhat perplexed how to dispose of the many dukes who will claim his consideration, but it is supposed that he will find a place for the Duke of Richmond at the head of the War Department, and that the Duke of Buckingham will be the new President of the Council, with Mr. W. H. Smith as his subordinate, to occupy Mr. Forster's post.

News from Cape Coast Castle to January 29 confirms the important telegram of a fortnight ago. Sir Garnet Wolseley was preparing on that day to enter Coomassie, where he was not likely to meet with any resistance, in spite of the objections of the king to the occupation of his capital. The terms of peace, which are said to include some cession of territory, have not been definitely stated, but according to an Admiralty telegram the war was expected to close about the 7th inst., and the troops to re-embark at the Gold Coast by March 1.

The news from India is somewhat more hopeful, great benefit having been derived in the districts threatened by famine from the recent general rains, and the supplies of grain stored by the Government being equal to present needs.

Another interesting feature of external news, to which we can only allude, is the reported discovery by Dr. Beke of the true Mount Sinai, on which he is said to have found the remains of sacrificed animals, and lower down some Sinaitic inscriptions.

PARTING WORDS.

IN taking leave of the Gladstone Cabinet, which for the last five years has shaped the political course of the United Kingdom, we are not ashamed to confess to some conflict of emotion. We deem the change of Administration which has been precipitated by the result of the general election to be, on the whole, beneficial to the country. It was called for by the position of affairs. It expresses the present mind of the people. It will, doubtless, clear the way for other combinations at no very distant period, better adapted to work out those reforms which are still required by the progressive interests of the nation. Night in its turn is nearly as grateful as day. The season of winter has its uses even as that of summer has its enjoyments. We would not if we could interpose to keep the present Ministry in office, but we cannot part with it without offering a tribute of respect, and breathing forth a sigh of unfeigned regret. It has filled a wide space in our sympathies during the five years of its official career. It has frequently challenged, and nearly as often received, our respectful admiration. Whenever we could do so without doing violence to our convictions, we have rejoiced to lend it such help as lay within our reach. When we have differed from it, we have differed with reluctance. It is not without pain, therefore, that we bid it farewell.

Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have done a great work, and the sum-total of what they have achieved will constitute a memorable chapter of English history. Our children's children, we cannot doubt, will read it with profound interest, and will see in it the first germination of those principles, the full development of which will place them in a far happier position than that occupied by their forefathers. We, perhaps, are unable to measure as accurately as they will the importance of those changes which we have helped to initiate. They will pluck the ripper fruit of such changes. Still, even we can hardly remain insensible to the greatness of those legislative triumphs which have been achieved under Mr. Gladstone's leadership. Imperfections, it is true, attach to all his great measures, and, to some extent, disfigure them; but, on the whole, most of us will be ready to admit that the influence of the Gladstone Administration upon the political character and destiny of the country has been of an elevating kind; and that the general course of legislation under its guidance has been worthy of the people for whose advantage it was devised and carried into effect.

We cannot part with the Premier without feeling how deeply we are indebted to him, and to the men who work with him, for maintaining throughout his official career the peace of his country. It might have been otherwise. It required the full force of his personal convictions and strength of will to steer the vessel of the State, so as to prevent it from being drawn into the vortex of warlike passions which distinguished the commencement and progress of the war between Germany and France. While it may be true that the exemption of these islands from the impending curse may have been due in some measure to good fortune, as well as to skilful and forbearing policy, we cannot but think that it would have been easy under another administration to have got inextricably entangled in Continental disputes. Sure we are that our present cordial relations to the Government and people of the United States owe much of their pleasantness and growing harmony to the wonderful patience of the Cabinet over which Mr. Gladstone presided. Their foreign policy, carried into effect by Earl Granville, laid the basis of the present commercial and financial prosperity of England, and we cannot but thankfully own that the preservation of peace through more than one threatening crisis in the foreign affairs of the country is largely attributable to the pacific preferences and resolute determination of the lately defeated Government.

It will be superfluous for us to review even the main features of Mr. Gladstone's home policy. We have done so, and we hope with some discriminating care, in this journal again and again. The Liberal leader, whatever he might take in hand, devoted to it his best energies. We can pardon much of that impulsive and wayward egotism by which he cooled the ardour of many of his followers. We can forgive him his last grand mistake, as one resulting from a deficient knowledge of human nature. It is now clear that his capacity for governing the English people had exhausted itself in the effort which he made to reconcile priestly domination with religious equality in his bill for the creation of an Irish University. It is scarcely less apparent to us that he is unable to comprehend the true and only sound position which it becomes a Liberal

Government to take in respect of ecclesiastical affairs. We do not expect—we cannot say that we desire—that he should be the statesman to whose responsibility the settlement hereafter of the relation of the State to the religious institutions of the country should be committed. He has not fairly thought out the principles which lie at the basis of any settlement consistent with justice. We bid him adieu with profound respect, not altogether untinged by affection. We frankly and gratefully own ourselves his debtors. But we can hardly profess our expectation that he is destined to lead us in that supreme conflict to which we are steadily looking forward.

THE NEMESIS OF GERMANY.

THREE years after the conquest of Alsace and Lorraine by German arms, Prince Bismarck has had the grim satisfaction of welcoming the deputies of these provinces to the German Parliament. As their entry into that Assembly was the work of the Imperial Chancellor, it must be presumed that he rejoices in it, and yet it can only be with "a defeated joy." The deputies, fifteen in number, are Ultramontane or Secessionist to a man. Democratic and socialist candidates as well as German Imperialists presented themselves to the constituencies a fortnight ago; but none were elected. Separation from Germany was the uppermost thought in the minds of the electors, and where clerical candidates were chosen it was because in this case the Ultramontanes made the best Home Rulers. The deputies have not been long in showing their colours. The Bishops of Strasburg and Metz are among the number, and the former, Bishop Raes, presented a motion tending to detach his country from Germany. To do this required skill as well as courage, but the prelate showed himself very wary. By the terms of the resolution it was assumed that as between Germany and France the Treaty of May, 1871, was good, and effected the transfer of Lorraine-Alsace to Germany, yet "it could not be the intention of Germany to inflict punishment upon the population"; therefore the German Parliament prayed the Emperor's Government to submit the question of incorporation to the inhabitants of the province. Of course such a motion as this could not be more than a mild protest. The Alsatians were not asked whether they would come into the German Empire, nor will they be asked whether they would like to go out. The deputies will make their speeches, hear Bismarck's reply, and then, perhaps, with the exception of the seven of them who are priests or bishops, will retire. As a parliamentary power they count for little or nothing; but as witnesses against a policy of conquest and annexation their conduct cannot but make an impression both in and out of Germany. Prince Bismarck says that the incorporation does not stand for a conquest, but for deliverance and a restoration; but these elections are a protest against such a view, which is worthier of one of those pedantic professors whom he so much despises than of a statesman. The work of Providence during two hundred years of progress cannot be ignored with impunity, and Prince Bismarck is reviving in our days the barbarous political methods of the seventeenth century.

It is only necessary to glance at the business now before the German Parliament to be convinced that Germany is paying dear for the policy of violence which Prince Bismarck avowed ten years ago, and which he has since practised with a specious success. Inasmuch as goodwill and confidence are not valued as sources of political strength, and material power only is relied on, it is natural that every interest should be sacrificed to the aggrandisement of the army. Field Marshal Count Moltke said in the Reichstag last Monday, "We want an army to defend what we have gained, and we shall have to defend it by arms for the next fifty years." This is the view of the Imperial Government, and hence the necessity of the new military law, which is now occupying the attention of all Germany. The details of this law need not here engage our attention, but the direction of the changes introduced is important. The Imperial Parliament asks that the present organisation and strength of the army may be kept up for an indefinite time. The number of officers is to be augmented considerably, that is to say, by one third, and the pay of the non-commissioned officers and rank and file is to be increased. At present the peace footing of the German army is 430,000, and the war footing is 1,301,000 men, and still Count Moltke declares that Germany wants an army, not for conquest, but merely to make her safe. By various arrangements set forth in the bill, the army is to be raised to a war-strength of 1,800,000 men, being an increase of half-a-mil-

lion. The likelihood of an attack on Germany by France with a view to the recovery of the provinces from her, is put forward so plainly by the Imperial Government as the reason for these great changes, that we need not be at any pains to connect these proposals of a vastly increased military expenditure with the annexation policy of Prince Bismarck. France might have borne the humiliation of defeat, and the burden of her enormous war indemnity, as a punishment for her wanton aggression in 1870; but it is confidently assumed at Berlin that she cannot hear the cry of Lorraine and Alsace without doing all in her power to redeem those provinces. As a matter of fact, the French nation is charging itself with the cost of providing an army of 2,423,000 men for the very purpose of winning those countries back again. Thus conquest drives its victim to plans of revenge, and these plans compel the conqueror to remain, year after year, in the wearisome and costly attitude of defence. At the present time, before the new bill has become law, the military expenditure of Germany amounts to £15,000,000 sterling—the total of the civil estimates being little more than twice that sum. Should the bill now before the Reichstag pass, the military expenditure will be increased by 2,000,000*l.* before the end of next year. How is this enormous expenditure to be maintained? It is very evident that it cannot be kept up unless the ancient efficiency of the schools and universities and of the administrative service, is sacrificed; and this is what the best minds of the country are foreseeing with alarm. In the present state of the public mind, with a semi-military Premier, and generals and field-marshal in full possession of the ascendancy they acquired in a great war, it is perhaps not to be expected that the new army expenditure can be successfully opposed in the Reichstag. Something useful, however, may be done. Germany will not always be in a military fever, and much will be gained if the Parliament limits the duration of the proposed expenditure so as to exercise the right to revoke it when minds are more calm and accessible to reason.

There seems no sufficient reason to disbelieve the professions of an earnest desire of the German Government for the maintenance of peace which has been expressed in its recent diplomatic communications, and has just been affirmed anew in the Emperor's speech. Assuredly Germany needs peace as much as France, although for different reasons. At the same time it is a misfortune that its most influential statesmen have no confidence in peaceful methods. Its foreign policy, as Mr. Disraeli might say, is "harassing." It makes no allowance for human nature, but tries to extend the right of conquest over the realm of political discussion. The remonstrances it recently submitted to the Government of France respecting the tone of the French press were uncalled for and unwise. They united French sentiment in a feeling of humiliation and oppression, and—strange feat—even made a popular martyr of M. Veuillot. Its interference in Belgium was more carefully veiled, but equally imprudent, since Germany had nothing to apprehend from that country, and all Europe is offended when a small State protected only by its neutrality is domineered over by a great neighbour. This preference for harsh and violent methods is one of the consequences of successful and repeated wars. Prince Bismarck told Mr. Disraeli that he bore a particular grudge against the Professors, and was determined to eliminate their influence from Prussian politics. But it may be safely assumed that those who study history and lead a family life make as good public advisers as colonels and generals. Perhaps when the tendencies of Prince Bismarck's policy are a little further developed, and the heavy military burdens he is seeking to inflict on his country are realised, this may be the deliberate opinion of the German people.

ELECTION NOTES.

Though the Conservative reaction has been conspicuous, especially in the metropolis, in the verdict of the boroughs of England and Wales, the Liberals still retain a numerical majority of eighteen in these constituencies (160 to 142). But in the counties their defeat has been overwhelming; they can reckon upon only 33 representatives (25 for England alone) out of 187 members for the rural districts; the relative proportion as compared with 1868 being as follows:—

	1868.	1874.
Liberals	56	33
Conservatives	131	154

thus showing a Liberal loss of twenty-five seats during the interval, several of which had been

previously surrendered at single elections. It is probable that this loss would have been greater but for the operation of the minority clause, which made the Liberal candidate safe in Berks, Bucks, Oxford, Herts, Cambridge, Dorset, and Hereford. The Conservatives now monopolise the representation entire in twenty-two English counties. Three of the seats (two in Lincolnshire, and one in East Sussex) were gained by them in the recent election without a contest. By a large majority they won the second seat for East Surrey, which even the name and services of Mr. Locke-King could not prevent. Both the seats for South Essex were easily gained by them, though the Liberals of the division were united in favour of Messrs. Baker and Johnston; while for Middlesex Mr. Coope, the brewer, supplanted Lord Enfield, albeit a member of the Byng family once supreme in the county, by the overwhelming majority of 4,244 votes. In this case something may, perhaps, be set down to Non-conformist abstentions, more to beery motives, but most of all to the growing number of county voters—City men of comfortable means and villa-respectability—who have a strong Conservative bias, and are averse to decided reforms. The influence of this class has no doubt been felt to a large extent also in East Surrey and South Essex; so that in all the suburban county divisions not a solitary Liberal member remains. Suburban London is flooded with genteel, somewhat snobbish, and we fear do-nothing Conservatism, strongly tintured with Ritualism, that has come to look upon Mr. Gladstone in the light of a chained Prometheus, and upon Mr. Disraeli as graceful Repose personified.

The southern counties have with slight exceptions yielded to the prevalent reaction. The seat for East Sussex, as we have said, was yielded by the Liberals without a struggle, Mr. Dodson finding refuge at Chester under the wing of the Grosvenor family, and in North Devon Sir Thos. Acland was allowed to remain in consequence of his Conservative interpretation of the Education Act. In both North and South Wilts the single Liberal representatives were ejected after vigorous contests. Even in Cornwall, which has been so conspicuous for Liberalism and Dissent, the Tories were allowed to wrest one county seat from their opponents, being better prepared for the struggle. In the Isle of Wight even a son of Lord Shaftesbury was not able to overcome clerical opposition to the Government, for to their influence was no doubt due the Hon. Evelyn Ashley's unsuccessful attempt to supplant Mr. Baillie Cochrane, though he failed by less than a dozen votes. Equally without practical result was the Liberal opposition in two of the county divisions of Kent. In the eastern counties the Conservative reaction carried all before it. In Essex and Suffolk the Liberals have lost every seat they lately held; in Norfolk their strength has been reduced from two to one; and in Lincolnshire from seven to four. Mr. Tomline's gallant attempt to secure a footing in East Suffolk failed, and Mr. Gurdon was 311 votes below the lowest Conservative on the poll for South Norfolk. For Huntingdonshire, represented for a long time by Tories, the contest was closer, and Lord Douglas Gordon lost by only 290 votes. Once more Mr. Tertius Paget has endeavoured to regain South Leicestershire for the Liberals, but has failed. A remarkable incident took place in East Worcestershire. At the last moment Mr. Albright, of Birmingham, a thorough Radical and advocate of disestablishment, came forward as a second Liberal, and polled 2,831 votes, only 477 votes less than his equally unsuccessful Whig colleague, the Hon. C. Lyttelton. With great spirit the Liberals of Yorkshire contested the three divisions of the West Riding; and though Sir J. Ramsden and Mr. Isaac Holden failed in the East, and Mr. W. H. Leatham and Mr. Beaumont in the south-west, the two Liberals won a decided victory in the north-west—Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Wilson being supported by a united party. The eight county members for Lancashire are all Conservatives, that party having gained the second seat in the north-east, though by a very small majority, as explained elsewhere by a correspondent. Durham is as decidedly Liberal as other counties are Conservative. Not a single Tory sits for any constituency in that county, the Liberals having won the sole remaining seat for the northern division.

The signal success of the Conservatives in the English county contests is not surprising. Added to the causes which brought about their successes in the boroughs—such as the alliance of the clergy and licensed victuallers, the distrust of Mr. Gladstone, and the growing unpopularity of the Government—county electors had special reasons for the course they have generally taken. The rise and progress of the Agricultural Labourers Union has created

general anxiety among the farmers, and disposed them to stick closer to their landlords. From Mr. Gladstone alone they had to fear a proposal to invest these antagonistic peasants with the franchise, while from Mr. Disraeli only they could expect such a readjustment of local taxation as would tell in their favour. Not even perhaps in 1868 did the country clergy work harder for the Conservative cause, and in the present elections their influence was backed by the scarcely less powerful influence of the publicans. This point is well brought out in the letter signed "North-East Lancashire" which appears in another column. The writer, who speaks from local experience, invites Mr. Gladstone to ponder the fact "that he and we have to contend with a vast, permanent, ever-busy electioneering committee, consisting of the clergy and their allies, always organised, with centres of combination always at hand (most of which have been raised at the national cost), and always in fighting trim. In other words, Mr. Gladstone has to learn and lay to heart the fact that the Establishment and its officials constitute his 'one great foe,' with means, agencies, and appliances, [against which] nothing short of the perfect union and unbounded enthusiasm of the Liberals can successfully cope." And our correspondent drives home the deduction when he adds, "Neither in Parliament nor out of Parliament, can the Liberal party move without us [the Nonconformists]; and if Mr. Gladstone elects to go 'straight,' and not Forster-wise on great fundamental questions, we shall gratefully and gladly follow his lead."

The incidents and significance of the Scotch electioneering campaign have been fully explained by local correspondents in the present and preceding number. The nett result is that the Conservatives have won four borough and eight county seats north of the Tweed, and that they have now nineteen representatives in the Scotch constituencies against seven in 1868—a clear gain of twelve.

The Welsh losses require explanation, and will no doubt receive it. The defeat of the Liberals in the Monmouth and Cardigan boroughs, Carnarvonshire, and most of all in Cardiganshire, is a surprise. In the last-named county, where Dissent is, we believe, overwhelmingly preponderant, Mr. E. M. Richards—who next to Mr. Henry Richard has been the best representative in Parliament of Welsh Nonconformity—was turned out, and his place supplied by a local Tory employer of labour. Under shield of the ballot, we believe, an expected majority of some 300 was metamorphosed into a minority of 215. Was this done by Dissenting tenants, oblivious of their principles, but anxious to please their landlords? One of the most desperate conflicts of the whole general election was fought at Cardiff, for which the Conservatives had been preparing since 1868, and in favour of whom the example, to say nothing of the action, of so puissant a magnate as the Marquis of Bute, the proprietor of half the town, would greatly tell. In support of Mr. Giffard, Q.C., priests were combined with parsons, and landlord with publicans, but even this quadruple alliance failed to unseat Colonel Stuart.

In a purely party sense the representation of Ireland is not materially altered, the Conservatives having only gained a seat or two on the whole. But the landlord influence in Ulster has been severely shaken by the return of Mr. Sharman Crawford and Dr. Smyth, and the rejection of a scion of the Abercorn family. The signal defeat of Mr. Chichester Fortescue, who has so dangerously played into the hands of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, is not much to be regretted, and illustrates the waning political influence of the priests, who were banded together in his favour. Ireland returns forty-two Home Rulers, nine-tenths of whom are Liberals who have yielded to popular pressure in accepting that shibboleth. Their influence in a Parliament where the Government can afford to disregard their vote will be small. At Westminster the Home-Rulers will be out in the cold.

THE TORY'S P.EAN.

I.
Let every cock on every steeple
Crow loud to-day!
Benjamin, chosen of the people,
Shall now have away.

II.
Now shall an Israelite indeed
Our wrongs redress,
And bring us, in our bitter need,
Benjamin's mess.

III.
No more shall Gladstone, Lowe, and Bright,
"Meddle and muddle,"
Robbing the people of their right
All night to fuddle.

IV.
Beer still shall be the Briton's boast,
Still soothe his care,
And with it day and night we'll toast
The great Lothair.

V.
He only for our good can find
The power to wield;
Let Gladstone hide himself behind
Achilles' shield.

VI.
There let him drink his sour French wine,
His heart to cheer;
Give us the Chief that don't design
To stint our beer.

VII.
Now safe will be our Church and State,
Nor botheration
Be made 'bout spending of the rate
For Education.

VIII.
Clause twenty-five the storm shall brave,
And, spite of schisms,
All of our "M.'s or N.'s" shall have
Their catechisms.

IX.
Farmers shall still of landlords' game
The cost defray,
And ploughmen never speak, for shame,
Of better pay.

X.
Their rights from guild and livery
No power shall sever,
And Common Councilmen shall be
Common as ever.

XI.
So shall our might and beer remain,
And both be stronger;
While Whigs their bitter cup may drain
All night—and longer!

W. K.

THE BRADFORD POLL.

The analysis of the voting papers at the recent election for Bradford is naturally a matter of great interest, which has been relieved by the publication of an official statement on the subject. The following is a

SUMMARY OF BALLOT PAPERS.

Forster	...	442
Forster and Godwin	...	1,325
Forster and Hardaker	...	945
Forster and Ripley	...	9,233
Godwin	...	182
Godwin and Hardaker	...	6,799
Godwin and Ripley	...	92
Hardaker	...	137
Hardaker and Ripley	...	234
Ripley	...	664

Total number of voting papers ... 20,063

Hardly more than 4,000 of the constituency abstained from voting at the late election. The actual number of votes recorded was as follows:—

Forster	...	11,945
Ripley	...	10,223
Godwin	...	8,395
Hardaker	...	8,115

Of the votes which placed Mr. Forster at the head of the poll, at least 8,000 are believed to have been given by Conservatives who brought out their full strength in his favour. The great mass of the Liberals divided their favours between Mr. Godwin and Mr. Hardaker, and the support given to the right hon. gentleman by members of his own party by means of split votes was certainly under 2,500 votes. This fact speaks for itself, nor will the remembrance of it be effaced by the retirement of the right hon. gentleman from office. When leaders of parties are quite ready, as occasion requires, to carry their measures in Parliament against their own friends by the aid of their opponents, and afterwards to be re-elected after the same fashion almost by the sole aid of their political antagonists, there ought to be a clear understanding how far this policy is to be carried, or the Liberal cause will be in perpetual danger of being betrayed by its chiefs.

With reference to the statement that a sketch for a tale given in Mr. Dickens's "Notebook" never passed beyond the chrysalis stage—the idea being of a lady abandoning her lover, but remaining unmarried for his sake, and returning to nurse him in his last illness—Mr. Denham Robinson informs the *Times* that the idea is carried out in the "Story of Richard Doubleditch," which was the leading tale in one of Mr. Dickens's earliest Christmas numbers of *Household Words*.

Literature.

BIRKS ON MORAL SCIENCE.*

It appears from the title and preface of this volume that the successive professors of moral philosophy at Cambridge do not agree as to what it is that they have to teach. The original subject, by the deed of the founder of the Knightbridge Professorship, is "Moral Theology, or Casuistical Divinity." The late Professor Maurice, differing from his predecessor, Dr. Whewell, employed the word Casuistry as the title of his first course of lectures, instead of the more usual name of Moral Philosophy. He thus explains his reasons: "The illustrious man 'who thirty years ago restored this chair to 'dignity and efficiency, and began to endow it 'with some of his vast intellectual treasures, 'abandoned that title for his lectures, deeming 'moral philosophy a more suitable one in this 'age. The conscience, therefore, was only one 'of the subjects which he had to examine; he 'could deliberate where he should introduce it 'into his system. But whilst I yield the greatest 'weight to his arguments as well as to his authority—whilst I entirely accede to his doctrine that 'the intentions of founders may often be best fulfilled by a departure from the letter of their instructions—whilst I have no doubt that the 'main duty of a teacher is to consider how he 'may meet the requirements of his own generation. I am led by these very maxims to 'accept the terms which Dr. Knightbridge 'chose for his professorship, as denoting the 'First Division of Moral Science." And now Professor Birks, agreeing neither with Whewell nor Maurice, has published his first course of lectures, under the title of "First Principles of Moral Science." He, too, explains and seeks to justify his difference of view from his predecessors, and shows, we think, satisfactorily, that Mr. Maurice's use of the word casuistry was not in accordance with the sense of the founder, nor with its well-known and historical meaning. He describes Dr. Whewell's treatment of ethics as objective, that of Mr. Maurice as subjective; and he proposes as another arrangement of the general subject the following classification: 1. Direct Ethics, or Moral Science in its relation to other sciences. 2. Controversial Ethics. 3. Moral Theology. The immediate purpose with which this volume is concerned, "is to treat of some first principles 'of direct ethics, or moral philosophy in its 'narrower sense, under these two heads: its 'relation, as in a moral geography, to other 'branches of human knowledge, and its fundamental principles, or the courses of solid 'masonry on which it rests below." The title of the volume expresses but one part, and that the least in extent, of this purpose; for, of the thirteen lectures of which the course consisted, three only are devoted to the first principles of moral science, the remainder to determining its nature and place.

Professor Birks defines ethics as "the science 'of ideal humanity. It sets before us man, not 'as he is, but as he ought to be. It implies a 'standard of right and wrong, which does not 'depend on the actual state and conduct of 'mankind, and is not fixed by past experience, 'but which shines out amidst the storm-clouds 'of human passions and vices like a rainbow 'of hope and promise, pointing onward to some 'thing bright, excellent and glorious, not yet 'attained. This science of ideal humanity is 'the true mainspring of all human progress 'which really deserves the name. And it forms 'also the natural transition to the best and 'highest field of human thought, Divine 'theology." Adopting Lord Bacon's division of all science into three main subjects, nature, man, God, Mr. Birks gives as the corresponding division of human knowledge, natural philosophy, humanity, and theology. Humanity, or our knowledge of man, is twofold, actual and ideal; theology, or our knowledge of God, is twofold, natural and revealed. Of the distinctions in theology, he says, "The contrast 'implied in the names does not extend to the 'truths themselves, but refers wholly to the 'different means by which our knowledge of 'them is supposed to be obtained." Of the distinctions in the sources of our knowledge of humanity he says nothing; but we cannot help asking, Whence comes this conception of ideal humanity, or of ethics so-called?

It is said to be "no mere product and corollary of man's past experience. It is rather 'its needful antidote." But what it is we have troubled ourselves vainly to discover. It does not help us to be told that it is "like a rainbow," that "its motto is 'Excelsior'"; that

* *First Principles of Moral Science*. A Course of Lectures delivered in the University of Cambridge, by THOMAS BIRKS, Esq., Knightbridge Professor of Moral Philosophy. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

"it never permits this standard to be torn from the staff, and trailed in the mire of human corruption"; with many other such-like feeble images. The term is, we think, misleading. It suggests, as Mr. Maurice remarked, a hurtful contrast to all other sciences, and a dreamy, impracticable, moral life. Mr. Birks quotes from Professor Grote the sentence that "Man has improved as he has, because certain portions of his race have had in them the ideal element, have been unsatisfied with what to them at the time has been the positive, the matter of fact, the immediately utilitarian; have risen above the cares of self and of the day, have been imaginative in thought, enterprising in action, deep and earnest in feeling." This is very true and very beautiful; but it is neither opposed to the much-abused experience philosophy, nor is it a justification of the expression "ideal humanity," as applied to ethics. Moral science is not concerned with ideas about morals, but with morals; the aspirations, moral conceptions and imaginings of highly elevated minds, are not the materials of moral science until they are embodied in action and become thus actual, concrete. If we are to understand that of this ideal humanity, of the condition in which man ought to be, we have a primary intuition, how is this consistent with the actual condition of man? Readers of this journal will doubtless remember that Dr. Wardlaw in his *Congregational Lectures* escaped from this difficulty by making morality dependent upon revealed religion; and we do not see how else Mr. Birks can escape if he retains his definition of ethics, and also his belief in the incompetence of man to discover the highest moral truth. He says, later, on page 99, "Theology, based on a supernatural message from heaven, descends naturally from the love of God, as the primal duty, to the love of man. But when we view morals as a human science, the natural order is a climax, in which we begin with ourselves, and then travel outward and mount upwards." This implies that moral science, like all other science, rests finally on experience and observation, and has no transcendental sources of knowledge. We cannot dwell longer on this subject, but it is one of great importance in a scheme of moral philosophy, and seems to us to lack in these lectures a precise statement. Nor can we do more than notice in passing Mr. Birks' reply to the objection of Buckle and others that moral science is stationary and barren in results. It seems to be open to the grave charge of being so weak in defence as to induce the belief that no satisfactory answer can be given to the objection. Leaving, however, these matters, we wish to call attention to the lecture entitled "Moral and Political Economy." We heartily welcome Mr. Birks as a fellow-labourer in this department of social life, and in the aim of determining the true functions and limits of political economy. We cannot however, avoid feeling that the professor of Moral Philosophy has done but scant justice to his colleague, the professor of Political Economy; we mean Professor Fawcett. Curiously—his name does not occur in this lecture, nor are the eminent services he has rendered to political science ever referred to. And yet, let it be mentioned here that no writer has shown so convincingly as he that which Mr. Birks insists upon, the close dependence of economic laws on the moral character of the people. Professor Birks would go farther and either enlarge the sphere of political economy till it included well-being as an object of pursuit in addition to material wealth, or he would make the limitations of its present sphere evident by changing its name from political economy to *Chrematistics*—natural polity. The evils attaching to the assumption of political economy are manifestly of a moral character. As a hypothetical science of the tendencies of trade, it rests upon the assumption that men act merely from selfish motives, and thus help to perpetuate, if not create, the root evil of commercial society. We are not unmindful of the material benefits we owe as a nation to this science, nor do we dispute the truth of its conclusions; but we are not the less anxious that the exceeding narrowness of its premises should be observed; and its incompetence to deal with all save a very few of the relations which exist between men in society. We add approvingly the words of Mr. Birks: "We must moralise economical science. We must relegate the science which has usually borne that name to its true, but subordinate place, as a science of tendencies, not of duties, an hypothetical, not an actual science, because it deals with the working of one class of motives only, and those neither the highest nor the best, those of self-interest and money-making alone."

We have pointed out the difference which exists between Professor Birks' view of moral science and that of his predecessor, Mr. Maurice;

but it should be added in justice that they have two features in common. They both regard morals as theologians, lecture upon them as preachers, and, further, they are both possessed of an unreasonable dislike of utilitarianism. On p. 54 we are told that because the doctrine of consequences, as the test of actions, rests on probabilities, and not on omniscience, morals can never be raised to the level of a genuine science. But it naturally occurs to us to ask why may not moral science be as exact as physical science? This rests on experience and observation, and is certain for all the practical purposes of life, why may not that? These two methods of the modified Bentham doctrine are like two spectres in the eyes of the Cambridge professors of moral philosophy. It might be supposed that every new occupant of the Knightbridge chair hoped to avenge the celebrated discourse of Professor Sedgwick, so mercilessly criticised by Mr. Mill about forty years ago. It does not occur to them, apparently, to consider how much that review has tended to modify intuitionism; how much its writer did to modify Benthamism as can be seen in his recent autobiography. There seems reason to believe that the time for a more generous and mutual recognition has come. In the exposition of the principles of moral science, Professor Birks insists upon the existence of certain eternal and immutable moral principles; but without discussing the whole subject of necessary truths. Contenting himself with restating Cudworth's views, he sets forth very clearly the contingency which attaches to our moral notions, but he contends strenuously for an independent and immutable righteousness. He argues almost entirely as a mathematician, and on this ground he occupies an impregnable position; but it always seems to us that if the position cannot be sustained otherwise than by a recurrence to mathematical truths it must always remain in some measure a matter of doubt. The truths of geometry are so unlike those of morals; the relations of geometrical lines so remote from those of human feelings, that they may serve as illustrations, but not as proofs. To this subject, however, Mr. Birks has contributed an essay, written forty years ago, which he adds to these lectures "as a pledge that the views held in the present volume . . . are no hasty product of recent study."

On the nature and office of conscience Professor Birks is in closer agreement with the thinkers of the Mill school, than he is himself probably ready to admit. He has discarded the notion of a separate faculty in man to which the name of moral sense or conscience can be given; agrees with those "who look upon it as no separable faculty, but simply as a name for reason, or the mind itself, when it is occupied with truths of one especial kind." As such it is of course capable of being trained and educated, as the eye to observe, and the judgment to determine. This is, whether our professors of Cambridge recognise the fact or not, a decided advance on Professor Sedgwick's view. It is a view which gives unity to the action of mind, and therefore simplicity to our apprehension of it; and it brings the operation of reason in matters of morality into harmony with its operations in other subjects. From this point the difficulty will not be so great in reaching agreement still further, that its sources of knowledge are alike; and that it finds the materials for its operation alike in physics and morals by means of experience, observation and reflection. This, the first course of lectures, was intended to be expository and not polemical. We have striven so to regard this volume, setting forth its character and mode of treatment in such a manner that our readers may be able to judge whether it is adapted to their purpose. To those who are already acquainted with the subject generally, and who have leisure, we commend it. But as an introductory text book to the study of moral science, it is, we think, inferior to some others. We shall look with interest for the second volume, which is expected to treat more specifically of conflicting systems of moral philosophy.

IN BAFFIN'S BAY.*

Anyone who has seen a whaler leaving Dundee or one of the other ports of the Scottish North-East Coast (not to speak of a whaler's return), will not be inclined to associate much romance with whale-fishing. In the outgoing the ship is comparatively clean, of course, but the crew generally are in no very bright condition. A stranger would be inclined to fancy that the thought of the coming hardships had subdued some of the crew till they went about

like cowed dogs, clumsily, in their thick woollen garments, and had driven others of them to find courage in excessive drinking, till they were in all the stages from merely merry up to wholly mad or senseless. But, by all authorities, we are assured that very soon matters settle down and arrange themselves; so that, though a whaler is not exactly a place for a luxuriant liver to be in, it soon becomes tolerable, and in some respects agreeable indeed, to one who has cultivated the faculty of making the best of things—observing men and nature, and relishing exciting adventure.

Captain Markham, at any rate, found it so, and has penned one of the most interesting narratives we have read for a long time out of a prosaic whaling cruise. The motley group of dull or half-drunk men he soon found to be really a set of brave, kindly, most trustworthy fellows, whom he came to respect and honour before he left them, though even he has occasionally to exclaim with wonder at their habits:—

"It was with no little anxiety—a feeling which has now subsided to one of interest and wonder—that I watched the dexterous manner in which some of my messmates would perform the apparently impossible feat of eating eggs with a large knife. Forks are decidedly at a discount, every one going on the principle that fingers were made before that useful article. If we happen to have a joint on the table with the smallest particle of the bone protruding, this is at once seized by the hand of the carver, whilst large joints are cut off and handed to us. On the whole our living is rough; but certainly substantial. It is amusing to remark the different degrees of 'home sickness' with which my messmates are variously affected. Some are in the highest spirits, apparently pleased at the idea of being their own masters and getting away from the thralldom of a jealous and ill-tempered wife; others are in the lowest depths of despondency, and one confidentially informed me, a few hours after our departure from Dundee, whilst talking of his better half, that the 'puir body would tak' on so,' and that by that time 'she would have cried a pint of tears.'"

Captain Markham's desire to see practically something of whale-fishing, to gain experience of Arctic navigation and the method of handling steam vessels in the ice, led him to accept an offer to join the Arctic whaler from Dundee, and as no whaler carries passengers, to engage himself as one of the crew at a nominal wage of 1d. per month, and a nominal interest of 1d. on each ton of oil, and of 3d. on each ton of whalebone. The account is in the form of a journal, and graphically describes the track of the Arctic up Davis Strait until there were some fifty miles of pack ice between her and the open water, which Captain Adams resolutely fought his way through. Then we follow the daring whaler crew past point after point, which for fifty years had been the extremes reached by discovery expeditions. Steam power has robbed the navigation of these regions of nearly all its difficulties and much of its risk. The Arctic dashes boldly past John Ross's farthest in 1818, Sir Edward Parry's farthest in Prince Regent's Inlet, in 1825; Franklin's winter quarters at Beechy Island are reached; Sir James Ross's farthest at Leopold Island in 1848 are visited; and many another bay and headland in these remote regions, which have taken seamen in sailing vessels years of toil and hardship to attain, were seen and visited by Commander Markham in a summer's holiday. It was no exceptional season in which this was done. The Arctic, under Captain Adams, has often made the same cruise, to the profit of her owners and crew, and returns again, in 1874, to repeat "the voyage," certainly to the profit of owners and crew. The Arctic on this occasion secured no fewer than twenty-eight whales worth from 160l. to 1,500l. each, and giving a total value of 18,925l., not reckoning the nineteen narwhals, twenty seals, and eleven bears which were killed, nor the worth of the bear brought home alive and placed in the Clifton Zoological Gardens.

Captain Markham's description of the whole internal life of a whaler is most interesting—the preparations, the excitement when "fish" are sighted, the increased excitement when the cry of "A fall! a fall!" is heard, intimating that a ship's boat is fast to a whale by the harpoons—how the blubber is stowed, and how the vessel graduates in dirtiness as whale after whale is captured, and the blubber and whalebone stowed away in the tanks, &c.—all is told in vigorous, simple, sometimes very picturesque style. Ordinary whalers have all along done much to promote Arctic discovery; and the idea of yet reaching the North Pole is not now so hopeless as the navigating of the North Water below Smith's Sound was only a few years ago. And even in this case Captain Adams seems to have been exercised with a new idea, which may yet yield fruit and do much to facilitate Arctic navigation—

"The captain has now a new idea in his head, which is to follow the ice of the inlet until we reach Fury Point, when we shall probably come to open water, to push up the Gulf of Boothia, making a running survey of all the unknown land on its eastern side, through the

* *A Whaling Cruise to Baffin's Bay and the Gulf of Boothia, and an Account of the Rescue of the Crew of the Polar. By ALBERT HASTINGS MARKHAM, F.R.G.S., Commander Royal Navy. (Sampson Low and Co.)*

Fury and Hecla Straits, down Fox Channel or the Frozen Straits into Hudson's Bay, and thus home. I need not say how anxious I am that he should adopt this route, the discovery of which would be of the greatest advantage to whalers; and, from what we have lately seen, the whales are all heading in that direction, so that we might fish as we go along. At five this morning, a little south of Batty Bay, some whales were seen, and one small one caught, though all the boats were away. Whilst we were employed in finching our fish, with the help of one or two of the *Polaris's*, I got a cast with the deep sea lead, but no soundings in two hundred fathoms, temperature 29.8, surface 33.0, air 36.4. The fish we obtained, though it had only run out three hundred fathoms of line, was covered with soft mud, and this was what induced me to get a cast.

In the evening we steamed through a stream of pack ice into a large open water along the land, the *Camperdown* following us. The way in which we bored through the ice, elicited the admiration of the *Polaris's* men, Schumann, the engineer, saying that if they had come across such ice they would have made fast and remained until it opened. He said if they had only had a man like Adams as their sailing master, he felt convinced they would have reached the North Pole."

This scheme, however, could not be carried out this voyage, and it was with some regret that Captain Markham saw the ship's head turned for home. One of the most interesting portions of the book is the account of the meeting of the *Ravensraig*, and receiving from her the crew of the *Polaris*—Dr. Bessel and the rest. Many new and interesting details are given concerning that brave but ill-fated expedition, to which however belongs the honour of carrying Arctic discovery to a point from which the solution of the great problem seems comparatively easy, with practised skill and due equipment. Such men as Captain Adams seem almost endowed with special senses, as witness what Captain Markham says on pp. 151, 152. It is such men who should be enlisted in the service of polar exploration. Of Captain Markham's many and perilous adventures with seals and bears, we have no time to speak, and must send lovers of adventure to the book itself, which, we are sure, will well reward the time spent upon it.

There are interests beyond mere curiosity involved in the opening up of these seas to navigation. The extension of the whale-fishery depends on the vessels being able to follow the whales as they shift their "ground," and other interests are dependent on the supply of whale-oil. Captain Markham in his dedication to Sir Bartle Frere aptly illustrates the significance of Arctic exploration by reference to the importance of the whale-fishing in relation to other and distant industries. "All things are set 'over against each other, and there is nothing 'single or separate,'" says an old writer. It is strange at first sight to find that the navigation of the polar seas and the welfare of Indian ryots are closely identified. But so it is; and the circumstance goes far to explain the interest and the enterprise which Dundee and some other ports of the north-east coast of Scotland have all along shown in the whale-fishing.

"The skilful seamen with whom I was shipmate this summer, and the ryots of Bengal, are engaged in two branches of the same industry, the welfare of the one depending very closely upon that of the other. The jute manufactory, which gives employment to many thousands of industrious ryots, is dependent for its existence on the success of the whale fishery, animal oil being necessary for the preparation of the fibre. So that it is peculiarly appropriate that a statesman who has devoted his whole life to the welfare of India should now be among the foremost in advancing the cause of Arctic discovery."

Any Scotchman, however, would be able to correct Captain Markham when at p. 73 he speaks of "scratch the ten" for "catch the 'ten."

HOMILETICS.*

First Notice.

We remember asking an old swimmer how he learnt to swim. "My big brothers," said he, "took me to the riverside, and chucked me at 'once into deep water.'" This is the way in which ministers are taught to preach. Special training for pulpit utterance is all but ignored in the course of study sketched out for the theological student. In the *Preacher's Lantern*, Vol. III., a veteran preacher, who calls himself Clemens, tells us that when he was at college, which must have been thirty or forty years ago, his tutors were three. Of the first two nothing need be quoted here, but "the third was merely 'a teacher of elocution, but of consummate

"ability, and whose duties were restricted to a 'fortnightly lecture.'" Clemens does not print this in italics. No wonder, for general usage demonstrates that this mere elocution is regarded as of such slight importance, that it is sometimes entirely omitted in ministerial education. Clemens was exceptionally fortunate in receiving so much instruction. We know ministers who passed five years in one of our largest Independent colleges, who only received a few lectures and lessons in this department during one session out of the five; and whose whole homiletical training consisted in this, with the additional exercise of taking one's turn in composing a weekly sermon read and criticised in class. In preaching there are two factors, the thought, and the utterance. No one dreams of neglecting those special studies, which aid the preacher in procuring and maturing the thought, but almost every one totally neglects those equally special studies which develop and guide the faculties for the utterance of the thought. The end of college training is the sermon on paper. That enormous interval which exists between a manuscript prepared in the study, and a *viva voce* discourse delivered in the pulpit, the student must bridge over for himself as he best can. Many never bridge it over. The manuscript goes into the pulpit, and all the priceless advantages of living speech are lost. This is only what should have been expected. Is preaching alone of all the arts to be attained without study and practice? Furnishing a man with matter to speak about will not qualify him to speak it. Chuck the young preacher into the pulpit and bid him sink or swim, and what is the result? Some sink. After a longer or shorter period of struggle, painful enough to themselves and others, they cease to strive, and disappear as preachers. The most part splash, and flounder, and gurgle in their throats, and manage by dint of persevering effort to hold their own in the new element; but how few ever attain to ease, grace, and power. We cannot be surprised at the low level of existing pulpit eloquence when this fatal sin of omission in the education of ministers is considered. But it is never too late to mend. If any of our ministerial readers on the sunny side of forty are desirous of repairing original neglect in this important branch of study for the pulpit, we can strongly recommend Dr. Kidder's compact and complete text-book of homiletics. Its five hundred small octavo pages are full of valuable information and suggestion. They may not agree with its contents; but they must be model preachers indeed if they can peruse the book without having to thank it for many useful hints.

In some matters we differ in opinion from Dr. Kidder; but these for the most part lie outside his own province as homiletical professor. In spite of his elaborate argument that preaching is an art by itself, we hold with Vinet, that rhetoric is the genus, and homiletics the species. Again, we allow high honour to the sacred office of the preacher, but decline to allow that any divinely-ordained monopoly of the propagation of the faith is attached to his function. We believe that the Divine Founder of our religion did not intend that His Gospel should owe its progress chiefly to any verbal communication between man and man. The life comes first. "Let your light 'so shine before men that they may see your 'good works.'" Works before words. We hold too that the proclaiming of the Gospel which Christ enjoined is as much fulfilled by the voice of friendship in conversation, by the parent teaching his children, and the teacher his class, as by the more formal public proclamation of the preacher. Exclusive mention of preaching, and the absence of any injunction to propagate the faith by the pen, we believe to be due to the fact that the printing-press had not then been invented. Nor can we quite coincide with Dr. Kidder's view of the preacher's function. He makes the preacher, simply and solely interpreter—mouthpiece—of the Sacred Book. The Bible is his foundation. On it he takes his stand, and authoritatively proclaims his message. We believe that in these days the preacher must go deeper than the Bible. He must begin with God and with Christ, and from thence lead men to the Bible. In an age when the authority and infallibility of the written word were unquestioned, the preacher could safely take the Bible as his ultimate basis, assured that the conscience of his hearers would respond to every appeal based thereon. But when men everywhere begin to dispute or doubt the authority of the Scriptures, the preacher has no alternative. He must proceed in the real order: not first the Bible, and God an inference from it; but first God, and the Bible an emanation from Him. Space forbids our dwelling upon this momentous topic, but its momentousness forbids our omitting all mention of it. Yet again we

cannot agree with Dr. Kidder in thinking it no evil that the sermon should be the most important part of the meeting for Divine worship. He says:—

"If preaching and hearing be regarded as the leading and central object of religious assemblies on the Sabbath, the other services of the sanctuary should be regarded as auxiliary to that object. Hence in selecting the hymns and Scripture lessons, as well as in offering prayer, regard should be had to an essential unity of design with the sermon itself. So as, if possible, to make a definite and powerful impression, not weakened by a contrariety of subjects."

Rather than make the worship of God subordinate to the sermon, we would prefer a liturgical service. Where both worship and sermon depend upon one man, the two will inevitably influence each other. But how much better that the spirit of worship should draw the sermon up into its own higher sphere, rather than that the sermon should employ the acts of worship as accessories to heighten its effects!

We cannot take Dr. Kidder as an authority outside the range of his special sphere, homiletics; but as a text-book of this science and art, his work is admirable. Merely as a guide to the history and literature of the subject, this volume is worth more than its price. From Chrysostom to Daniel Moore, we find in the body of the work and the appendix, references to a long list of writers on homiletics, which shows that, though neglected in our day, the study has not been deemed unimportant by such names as Augustine, Melancthon, and Erasmus. Dr. Kidder not only directs the student to these authorities, but himself piously cites them, and other great writers who have incidentally touched upon the subject of preaching. Hence his book not only gives his own generally wise and weighty opinion, but is quite a repository of extracts from Jeremy Taylor, Whately, Hamilton, Vinet, Ruskin, and others. He is also careful to explain his definitions by a sufficiency, not a redundancy, of examples from such preachers as Bossuet, Bourdaloue, Jay, and Guthrie. Chapter XIII. contains an able and fair discussion of the relative merits of reading, recitation, and extemporaneous utterance; giving, as one would expect, the decided preference to the last mode. Instead of indicating here Dr. Kidder's anatomy of the sermon and system of rules for composition and delivery—which it will undoubtedly benefit the preacher to study, whether or not he adopts Dr. Kidder's advice on all points—we will proceed to give as many as we have space for, of the numerous passages we have marked for quotation:—

TEXTS. (1) "In all cases choose texts which make a complete sense. (2) Choose a text which embraces legitimately, and, if possible, obviously, the subject of the sermon. (3) As to language, select those which are perspicuous, pertinent, full, and yet simple. (4) Select those which are of medium length, neither too long, and consequently embracing too many subjects, nor abruptly short."

"Corresponding to these rules preachers should avoid selecting texts which are odd, for the double reason that such a proceeding is beneath the dignity of a solemn minister, and that the idea of quaintness is unfavourable to purity and depth of religious impression."

ARGUMENTS. "In all our pulpit reasonings we should aim to be models of candour, never attempting to pass off for sound arguments those which are weak or specious."

APPLICATION. "There is oftentimes danger of failure in withholding the application of truth too long. Its edge may be blunted by suspense, and its glowing burning power may cool off with delay. What is perhaps worse, if the application is habitually reserved for the conclusion, wary hearers, to whom severe truth is unacceptable, also form the habit of evading its power."

PERSONALITIES. "In all circumstances let him avoid personalities. To quote Bishop Taylor: In the reproof of sin be as particular as you please, and spare no man's sin, but meddle with no man's person; neither name any man, nor signify him, nor cause him to be suspected. He that doeth otherwise maketh his sermon a libel, and the ministry of repentance an instrument of revenge, and in so doing he shall exasperate the man, but never amend the sinner."

CONCLUSIONS. "Nothing can exceed the ill taste or the bad effect of long-drawn perambulatory conclusions. Yet excessive length is a common fault of the conclusions of extemporaneous preachers and writers; in fact, of all who do not govern themselves by well-defined plans. Sometimes the preacher becomes conscious that he has failed to accomplish the object of his discourse, or to awaken the degree of interest he ought to have excited, and he struggles on in the vain endeavour to compensate his fault, until at last he is forced to terminate further from his object than when his conclusion began."

OLD SERMONS. "Whoever supposes that a stock of old sermons will avail him as well as new where they have not been heard, deceives himself. It is only when the preacher can, by special review, bring back to his own mind the original feeling of interest, that he will succeed with the productions of the past. And if his mind be at all progressive this will be exceedingly difficult."

THE CHILDREN. "Many ministers seem never to remember that the children of their congregations are by the special appointment of the Lord entitled to 'their portion of meat in due season.' This culpable neglect may be easily rectified by the children's department in a sermon, or by the introduction of passages specially addressed to this party. No doubt many a good

* A Treatise on Homiletics. By DAVID P. KIDDER, D.D. Third edition. (Dickinson and Higham.)
The Preacher's Lantern. Volume III. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

The Study: Helps for Preachers from English, American, and Continental Sources. First Series. (R. D. Dickinson.)

Fifty Sermons. By the Rev. T. DE WITT TALMAGE, D.D. Second Series. (R. D. Dickinson.)
"Printed from the Writings of T. De Witt Talmage, D.D. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

divine will be startled at the mention of such a departure from antiquated custom, and at the possible violation of rhetorical unity. But what avails rhetorical unity if our proper work is not accomplished?"

A HINT. "Never let the re-reading of a fully written sermon be the last act preparatory to preaching extemporaneously. It is far better to prepare a new abstract, and to contemplate the sermon in its plan, not in its verbiage."

PROFUNDITY. "Real profundity is bad enough. To a few persons it is habitual; but in order to be useful such need to learn the language and style of thought common among the people. To the great majority of preachers, that language and style of thought are familiar; but some affect to ignore it at the very time when it might be of most service to them."

In the above quotations we have taken the liberty to omit here and there a few words to save space. The same necessity forbids us to give more.

One serious defect we observe in Dr. Kidder's scientific conception and treatment of homiletics, a defect in which we believe he only repeats all his predecessors. Preaching is a branch of rhetoric, and it is not yet emancipated from the conceptions and consequent rules of the antique rhetorical art. In the Greek and Roman world rhetoric contemplated only the separate oration; complete in itself, delivered at one standing, aiming at one immediate effect, whether simple or complex. Whether the orator were advocate, panegyrist, debater in the senate, or before a popular assembly; whatever the theme and occasion of his speech; that speech was an independent unity, beginning and ending and seeking its result in that one occasion. Obviously the preacher's function differs in this most important respect, that it is continuous. In Parliament, at the bar, in political and other public meetings, we have still numerous occasions of public speech, strictly similar to those which called for the ancient oration. These occasions come to the minister also, and he has at times to deliver sermons which ought to be complete and distinct orations. But these occasions form the exception. The rule is that the minister should address the same audience from the same pulpit fifty or a hundred times every year, and always upon one subject, though this is so complex as to include infinite variety in its unity. Homiletics thus forms a branch of oratory in which this continuousness must necessarily modify to some extent—space forbids us to inquire to how great extent—those rhetorical rules which apply to the once-for-all oration. Two only of these modifications can we mention. First, the preacher's influence upon his audience is cumulative. Each Sunday he begins his sermon fortified by the power over the hearts and minds of his hearers, gained by all past sermons. Secondly: the result he seeks to accomplish is gradually progressive. Aiming at nothing less than the Christian perfection of his hearers, he never expects to achieve his aim at one blow, but always must be content with partial success. The types of his work are not an archer bending his bow and hitting the mark, a general winning a battle, a painter presenting at one view a complete exhibition of his thought. Those answer to the ancient oration, but the Christian preacher's work is continuously didactic, and its true figures are found in the operations of husbandry and building. He sows, plants, waters, lays the foundation, builds up the wall. The independent oration fails if it does not win the battle; but continuous teaching though it waits long for harvest is not therefore inefficient. These distinctions in the nature and objects of the oratory must produce great differences in the rhetorical style. In this conviction we find relief from the depressing influence of Mr. Bright's recent valuable letter upon preaching. A prince of orators himself, he regards the bare idea of having to discharge the preacher's weekly duty as terrible. No one knows better than he the strain upon the physical, emotional, and intellectual powers involved in the preparation and delivery of an oration. He knows, what many glib spouters of rubbish are ignorant of—that to prepare one, not to say two, good orations every week, is a task beyond the powers of the average preacher. Saurin, if we remember rightly, used to preach once a month, and found the month short for his preparation. Are we then shut up by the iron necessities of natural law, to the unwelcome conclusion that preachers must preach, and congregations must endure bad orations every week? Unless we modify the view of the sermon taken by Dr. Kidder and rhetoricians generally, there is no escape for us.

But we are convinced that that conception of the preacher's work is defective. The continuous didactic teaching of the pulpit assuredly requires a style and rules of its own. Lecturers on literature, history, science, morals, can discourse not only once a week but even daily, to audiences always interested and instructed. The preacher's task is in form more nearly analogous to theirs than it is to that of plougher at the bar, or orator in the senate.

When this truth of the case is duly recognised on all sides and allowed its practical influence, we are persuaded that the present fearful strain upon the preacher will be materially lightened, and the interest and profit of the hearer greatly increased. We shall have fewer attempted orations which are wretched failures, and probably hear a really respectable oration oftener than we do now.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

LONDON.—At the weekly meeting of the London School Board, on Wednesday, at the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Mr. C. Reed, M.P., in the chair, it was arranged that the debate on Canon Gregory's motion relating to board statistics and voluntary schools should be resumed this day and continued to-morrow.

THE FUTURE OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—In a leading article the *Times* says:—"Those who can look beneath the surface, and can discern the tendencies already at work, and which will operate each year with greater force, are well aware that the voluntary system has ceased for ever to occupy its old ground. Here and there a voluntary school well endowed or supported by rich managers will survive; but the voluntary system will not spread. It is impossible for it to compete with its wealthier and more powerful rival, and it will certainly not be by Clause 25 that the result of the rest of the Act will be either prevented or postponed."

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN BOARD SCHOOLS.—At the fortnightly meeting of the Birmingham School Board, on Wednesday, the principal business before the board was the consideration of the recommendation of the Education and School Management Committee relative to the conditions upon which the use of board schools should be allowed for the purpose of voluntary religious teaching. Upon Mr. R. W. Dale moving the first recommendation, which directed that facilities should be afforded for the giving of religious instruction by voluntary agency to children attending board schools, the Rev. F. S. Dale (chairman), at some length, pointed out what appeared to him to be practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the scheme proposed, and, questioning its legality, he moved an amendment that the matter be submitted to the solicitor to the board for his opinion. This was seconded by the Rev. Canon O'Sullivan Catholic, but it was negatived by eight votes to three. The recommendations of the committee were, with some slight revision, adopted. Mr. R. W. Dale explained that they were so framed as to deal fairly towards all religious communities in the town, so that all might enjoy the same privilege as that sought for by the Religious Education Society. The time when religious instruction may be given, will be three quarters of an hour on Tuesday and Friday mornings, when the ordinary school work will commence at a quarter past ten, instead of half-past nine o'clock.

THE EDUCATION LEAGUE AND THE ELECTIONS.—The monthly official statement of the National Education League says:—"The dissolution found all parties unprepared, many of the sitting members being at the time abroad. The exact result will not be known until the end of February, but the returns which have already been made indicate that there must be a change of Government. A Parliament elected under such circumstances must necessarily be a 'scratch' Parliament, and cannot last very long. Constituencies have had no time for preparation, or for choice of candidates, and the members elected cannot be said to represent the real voice of the country. It is probable that the constituencies will at once begin to settle plans for another election, and to look out for other representatives. The policy of the new House of Commons on the question of education can at present only be guessed at. It will be difficult to find a Conservative Minister of Education who will give greater dissatisfaction to the country than Mr. Forster has done. The changes which have been looked forward to in the Education Act will probably be delayed for a time, but will be only the more complete and satisfactory when they come. Many gentlemen who have hitherto supported Mr. Dixon have either sustained defeat or have not come forward for re-election. The attack on the 25th Clause will no longer be led by Mr. Candlish, who, owing to failing health, voluntarily surrendered his seat for Sunderland. The returns at present made show that, notwithstanding the Conservative reaction, a large number of members have been returned pledged to vote against this clause than sat in the last Parliament. The school board elections afford no guide to the results of a Parliamentary election. Thus, in Devonport, where a great Liberal success was gained in the school board election, two Conservatives have been returned. Again, at Wolverhampton, where each side returned an equal number of members in the school board election, leaving the balance in the hands of the Roman Catholic party, the Conservative candidate for the House of Commons is in a minority of over six thousand. It is too soon to indicate the policy which will be taken by the League under the change of circumstances. A meeting of the executive committee will shortly be held to consider the future course of action. Meanwhile, we have no reason to be discouraged. In the confusion and scramble of the last fortnight, there has been abundant evidence of the growing strength of the principle we have advocated."

THE EDUCATION ACT FOR THE COLONY OF VICTORIA has now been in force nearly twelve months. The provisional arrangements made with regard to non-vested schools for the first year of the currency of the Act cease at the end of the present year. A circular has been issued by the Education Department, directing the attention of the committees of the non-vested schools to the fact that the present arrangement for defraying the cost of free instruction in such schools must cease with the current year. The Education Department desire to be informed, in the event of the committee or trustees wishing that the connection of the school with the department should be continued, whether they are willing to lease the buildings and appurtenances to the department during such period (not exceeding one year) as may be agreed upon, or whether they would prefer instead to accept a capitation rate payable upon the monthly average attendance of pupils so long as the school might be retained by the Department. Free education must be given in the subjects specified under the Act, and payment would be made by a capitation rate calculated in accordance with the actual cost of free instruction in the nearest State school. Certain conditions in accordance with the provisions of the Act must be complied with, and the capitation grant may be withdrawn at three months' notice. Further regulations under the Act have been published, dealing with the salaries of teachers, payments by way of results, fees for extra subjects, drill and gymnastics, and terms on which school buildings may be used under the direction of boards of advice. At the time of the passing of the Act a fear was generally expressed by the clergy of the different denominations that in consequence of the secular character of the Act the religious education of the young would be seriously interfered with, if not in many cases altogether prevented. The clergy asserted that they had no time to provide the religious instruction, and that if the teachers of the State schools were debarred from giving such instruction, the result would be that children would as a rule grow up without a knowledge of God. Several clergymen of different denominations have, however, attended to the spiritual instruction of the children of the common schools in their neighbourhoods. During a recent meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly of Victoria, a discussion took place on the subject of the religious instruction of the young. Several clergymen expressed their conviction that if the ministers of religion did their duty, the religious instruction of the young would be much more thoroughly looked after under the new Act providing only for secular instruction than had hitherto been the case. They related their own experience in the matter, and described the steps they had taken during the past year. The result had been of a very encouraging kind. Mr. McBain, M.L.A., who was one of the leading opponents of the Education Bill in the Legislative Assembly, and who moved the postponement of the second reading to that day six months, expressed his belief that "if the denominations were to unite in a strong effort, a more thorough religious education could be supplied than under the old system."—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette*.

Miscellaneous.

A MIXED MARRIAGE CASE.—A case involving the question of the religion of six children, the offspring of a mixed marriage, was heard in the Dublin Court of Exchequer on Tuesday and Wednesday, before Baron Dowse. The issue was to try the validity of an alleged will of Daniel Mallon, a day-labourer, who had been in the army, and was in receipt of a shilling a day pension. The alleged will was made on July 4, 1872, when the deceased was in a very weak state. It was prepared by Father Devlin, the parish priest, and was to the effect that the latter should have the care of the children, and bring them up in the Roman Catholic faith. The mother is a Protestant, and the children had been baptized as Protestants. Father Devlin said he wrote the will on the crown of his hat, there being no table in the room. Mr. Devlin was asked, in cross-examination, if he knew Mallon's wife, and he replied, "Yes, if I can call her his wife," and he explained this by saying that the parties were married by the registrar, and did not come near either him or the rector. Baron Dowse observed that in that court they had nothing to do with the priest or the rector. The marriage was perfectly legal. The jury, after some hours' deliberation, were unable to agree, and were discharged. The children meanwhile are in the mother's custody.

NEWSPAPER STATISTICS.—From the *Newspaper Press Directory* for 1874 we extract the following on the present position of the newspaper press:—"There are now published in the United Kingdom 1,585 newspapers, distributed as follows:—England—London, 314, Provinces, 916—1,229; Wales, 53, Scotland, 149, Ireland, 131, British Isles, 18. Of these there are—ninety-five daily papers published in England, two in Wales, fourteen in Scotland, seventeen in Ireland, and two in the British Isles. On reference to the edition of this useful directory for 1854 we find the following interesting facts—viz., that in that year there were published in the United Kingdom 624 journals; of these twenty were issued daily—viz., sixteen in England, one in Scotland, and three in Ireland; but in 1874 there are now established and circulated 1,585 papers, of which no less than 150 are issued daily, showing

per ton; Rocks, 70s. to 85s. per ton; Best Flukes, 120s. to 155s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Feb. 16.—Fine samples of English red cloverseed were in small supply, and brought the extreme prices of last week. Medium and inferior qualities predominate, and these sell slowly, at low and irregular rates. The best foreign descriptions were fully as dear, with a fair demand. Fine trefoil was taken off in small parcels, at rather more money. Canaryseed was dearer, the supply being short. Large Dutch hempseed realised as much money. Spring tares sold steadily, at the extreme currencies of last week. White mustardseed was taken off in small lots, at former quotations; but there was nothing passing in brown samples, for want of supply.

WOOL, Monday, Feb. 16.—A rather firmer tone is noticed in the English wool trade, but owing to the close proximity of the public sales of colonial produce business has been only moderate. Prices are without alteration.

OIL, Monday, Feb. 16.—Lined oil has been in moderate request at full prices. Rape has been firmer. Other oils have sold slowly.

COAL, Monday, Feb. 16.—There being a better supply of house coals, and the weather being mild, a reduction of 1s. 6d. per ton took place. Hettons, 26s.; Tunstall, 23s. 6d.; Hartons, 23s. 6d. Ships at market, 35; at sea, 10.

JUDSON'S SIMPLE DYES are exceedingly useful household commodities. The process is simple, and result satisfactory, as applied to woollen and silk articles. Shetland shawls or cloths that have become yellow are good subjects for young beginners in the art of dyeing. A basin of water only required; time, five minutes! Judson's Dyes, 6d. per bottle, eighteen colours, of all Chemists and Stationers.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—With the advent of the inclemencies of winter many indications will arise unless effective means for preventing or checking their courses be adopted. No lingering cough, hoarseness, nor shortness of breath on slight exertion should be permitted to continue a single day without measures being taken for their safe removal, more especially when remedial means are safe, rapid, and effective—these qualities are displayed in a high degree by Holloway's preparations. The ointment rubbed upon the skin draws surplus blood from congested structures, and gives immense relief to every oppressed organ concerned in respiration and the circulation. The wholesome effect externally, aided by the alterative action of the pills internally, dispels all dangers from latent mischief.

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The TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS will be held at the SOCIETY'S OFFICE, on TUESDAY, February 24th, at Five o'clock in the afternoon.

At Seven o'clock the usual Social Meeting will take place at the London Mission House. Henry Wright, Esq., J.P., Treasurer, will preside.

The undermentioned, and other Gentlemen, are expected to address the meeting:—

Rev. WILLIAM PARK, of Tollington-park.—Subject: "Chapel Building as a means of Spiritual Aggression."
Rev. JAMES STIRLING, of City-road.—Subject: "Chapel Building as the result of Spiritual Progress."

HARDSHIP.—A Gentleman, who was left when merely a child Fatherless, Penniless, and Friendless, has through his own exertions, hard work, and perseverance, obtained the Diplomas of Physician and Surgeon, is now entering the world; a good opening presents itself, but means fail him to take it. Should the Merciful and the Benevolent please to AID him, he will by life-policy secure against loss, and bind to repay as soon as possible. Address—Surgeon, 17, High-street, Shrewsbury, Salop.

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A very general desire having been expressed for the redelivery of the Lecture on this subject by the Rev. R. W. DALE, M.A., the LECTURE will be again delivered by him in EXETER HALL, on MONDAY EVENING, 2nd of March, at Eight o'clock.

Tickets for Reserved Seats, 1s., may be had at James Nisbet & Co., 21, Berners-street, Oxford-street; Dalton & Lucy, 28, Cockspur-street; Westerton, 27, St. George's-place, Knightsbridge; Waters, 97, Westbourne-grove; Hurland, 29, Buckingham-palace-road, Piccadilly; Burdett, 97, Upper-street, Islington; Alvey, 67, Newington Causeway; the Book Society, 28, Paternoster-row; Williams & Lloyd, 29, Moor-gate-street; and at the Offices of the Association, 165, Aldersgate-street, City.

W. EDWYN SHIPTON, Secretary.

BRIXTON INDEPENDENT CHURCH.

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, Feb. 25, a LECTURE will be delivered by W. HUGGINS, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., &c. on Spectrum Analysis in its Astronomical Applications.

The Lecture will be illustrated by the Electric Light, under the management of Mr. Ladd.

The Lecture will commence at 7.45.

Admission 1s. each. Tickets may be obtained of Mr. NICHOLLS, 252, Brixton-road, or in the Vestibule of the Church.

Dr. Huggins has kindly promised to give this Lecture in aid of the fund for the reduction of the debt, to which object the proceeds will be applied.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BURNT ASH, LEE.

The MEMORIAL STONE of this Church will be LAID by JOHN KEMP WELCH, Esq., at Three o'clock, on Thursday, the 26th instant.

Revs. D. Thomas, of Bristol, A. Hannay, Jos. Beasley, Geo. Martin, R. H. Martin, H. Richard, Esq., M.P., and other ministers and gentlemen are expected to be present.

The Rev. A. RALEIGH, D.D., will preach at 7 p.m., in Blackheath Congregational Church.

A cold collation will be served at 3.30 p.m.: tickets 5s. each.

A train leaves Charing Cross at 2.5, and Cannon-street 2.15 p.m., for Lee station, which is close to the site of the new church.

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WM. EBBLING, Esq., of the University of Gottingen, Cer-
tified by the Imperial Prussian Government.

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Applications to Head Master, at the Sec., the
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STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES' GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principal—The Misses HOWARD.

HALF TERM will begin MONDAY, March 9th

EDUCATION OF GIRLS, 20 SOUTHSIDE HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

Principals—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. SMITH and Miss FERRIS.
The course of study is adapted to the standard of the
Cambridge Local Examinations, and is under the personal
supervision of Mr. H. B. Smith and Miss Ferris, who have
had considerable experience in teaching, and have success-
fully passed Pupils at Cambridge and Oxford Local Exami-
nations.

French taught by a resident Parisian Lady.
SCHOOL REOPENED on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21.

THE LONDON AND GENERAL PERMANENT LAND, BUILDING, AND IN- VESTMENT SOCIETY.

Shares, £40. Monthly Subscription, 5s. Entrance Fee,
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Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.
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CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

Large or small sums received on deposit, repayable at
short notice. Shares may be taken at any time—no back
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Money ready to be advanced on Freehold or
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CLERICAL, MEDICAL and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

13, St. James's-square, London, S.W.
City Branch: Mansion House Buildings, E.C.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

The Annual Income, steadily increasing, exceeds	£249,000
The Assurance Fund, safely invested, is over	£1,880,000
The New Policies in the last Year were 457,	
assuring	£304,457
The New Annual Premiums were	£9,770
The Bonus added: o Policies in Jan., 1873, was	£323,671
The Total Claims by Death paid amount to	£3,169,901
The subsisting Assurances and Bonuses amount to	£5,773,144

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

CREDIT of half the first five annual Premiums allowed
on whole-term Policies on healthy Lives not over sixty years
of age.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES granted, without Profits,
payable at death or on attaining a specified age.

INVALID LIVES assured at rates proportioned to the
risk.

CLAIMS paid thirty days after proof of death.

REPORT, 1873.

The 49th Annual Report just issued, and the Balance
Sheets for the year ending June 30, 1873, as rendered to the
Board of Trade, can be obtained at either of the Society's
Offices, or of any of its Agents.

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary.

MONEY, TIME, AND LIFE are lost in the event of ACCIDENTAL INJURY OR DEATH.

Provide against these losses by a Policy of the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY

Against ACCIDENTS of ALL KINDS.

The oldest and largest Accidental Assurance Company.

Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P., Chairman.

PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVE FUND, £140,000.

ANNUAL INCOME, £160,000.

£810,000 HAVE BEEN PAID AS COMPENSATION.

Bonks allowed to Insurers of Five Years' Standing.

Apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, the Local
Agents, or

64, CORNHILL, and 10, REGENT-STREET, LONDON.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

MR. COOKE BAINES, SURVEYOR and
VALUER, PREPARES and NEGOTIATES
COMPENSATION CLAIMS for Property Compulsorily
taken for Railways and other Improvements, and also Values
property for every purpose.—26, Finsbury-place, Moorgate-
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BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL:—A QUARTER OF A MILLION.

OFFICES:—4, QUEEN STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.

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George Thomas Dale, Esq., Bayswater.
William Sutton Gover, Esq., 4, Queen-street-place, City.
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Fountain John Hartley, Esq., Adde-street, City.
William George Lemon, Esq., Lincoln's Inn.
Henry Potter Olney, Esq., Fountain-court, Aldermanbury,
City.
William Smith, Esq., Upper Norwood.
Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., LL.D., Hampstead.

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND ACTUARY.

William Sutton Gover, Esq., F.S.S., F.I.A.

SUB-MANAGER.

John Wilkinson Faircy, Esq.

AUDITORS.

Charles Brown, Esq., Waddon.
James Clarke, Esq., 13, Fleet-street, City.
Henry Gould Sharp, Esq., Tunbridge Wells.

BANKERS.

The London and Westminster Bank (Lothbury).

SOLICITOR.

Henry Gover, Esq., 40, King William-street, City.

PHYSICIAN.

William Munk, Esq., M.D., F.S.A., Fellow of the Royal
College of Physicians of London, 40, Finsbury-square.

SURGEON.

Thomas Carr Jackson, Esq., Fellow of the Royal College of
Surgeons, Surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital, 8,
Weymouth-street, Portland-place.

	From 18th Annual Report	Excess over
No.	Am't.	17th year.
New Policies, 2,190.....	£380,050	11,615
Premiums received	96,451	£4,917
Claims and Bonuses paid, 193 for	31,407	764
Laid by in Year	41,043	4,736
Accumulated Fund	814,116	
In Force, 18,084 Policies, for	3,109,215	
Annual Premium Income	97,402	
Average Reversionary Bonus, 18 years, £11 per cent. per ann.		

The Report was adopted. Messrs. G. T. Dale and Henry
Olney re-elected Directors, and Mr. Charles Brown and Mr.
James Clarke, of the "Christian World," Auditors.

May, 1873.

REMOVING or WAREHOUSING
FURNITURE, &c., application should be made to
the BEDFORD PANTHEON COMPANY (Limited)
for their Prospectus. Removals effected by large railway
vans. Estimates free. Advances made if required.—Address,
Manager, 194, Tottenham-court-road, W.C.

**PRIZE MEDALS AWARDED—NORWICH (1871) AND
MOSCOW (1872) EXHIBITIONS.**
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is the best manufactured for the purposes of a desk,
table, or backed seat, facing either way; strong, portable,
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For Damp Weather, 24s.

Velvet Slippers, with bows, 3s. 6d.

THOMAS D. MARSHALL,
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**CLARK'S PATENT STEEL NOISELESS
SHUTTERS.**—Self-closing, fire and thief-proof. Can
be adapted to any window or other opening. Prospectus
free.—CLARK and CO., Sole Patentees, Rathbone-place,
W.; Paris, Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin.

INFANT GROWTH AND HEALTH.

The importance of Feeding Infants on the best, i.e. the most
nourishing and easily digested Food has recently occupied
much of the attention of Medical Men, and the fallacy and
danger of employing starch in the form of Corn Flour and
other high sounding titles has been repeatedly pointed out.

SAVORY AND MOORE'S

BEST FOOD FOR INFANTS,
is supplied to the Royal Families of England, Russia, &c., and
the Medical Profession have entire confidence in it as the most
efficient and reliable substitute for Mother's Milk.

See Medical Certificates and Opinions.

Wholesale and Retail of the Manufacturers,

143, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.,
And Retail of all Chemists, throughout the Kingdom, who
also supply SAVORY & MOORE'S PANCREATIC
EMULSION, specially efficacious in the wasting diseases of
children, Consumption, &c. Agreeable to the taste. Not
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—The new Grand Historical, Nautical, Chemical,
Botanical, Zoological, Geographical, Biographical, Ethno-
logical, and Polytechnical INCOHERENCY, entitled
RALEIGH'S QUEER DREAM! or, the PIPE (the
POTATO!! and the PIXIE!!! written by Dr. CROFT (the
Managing Director). The disc pictures from original designs
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OSCAR HARTWELL, Misses KATE BROOKS, BARTLETT
and WESTBROOK; Messrs. FULLER and MARSDEN.
LIGHT AND COLOUR, and the SILBER LIGHT, by
Prof. GARDNER.—THE BRIGHTON AQUARIUM, by Mr.
KING.—THE ASHANTEE WAR.—Open, 12 till 5, and 7
till 10. Admission, 1s. Carriages at 5 and 10.

MARAVILLA COCOA.—The Cocoa (or Cacao)
of Maravilla, is the true theobroma of Linnaeus.—
TAYLOR, BROTHERS, the largest manufacturers of cocoa
in Europe, having the exclusive supply of this unrivalled
cocoa, invite comparison of it with any other cocoa for purity,
fine aroma, sanative, nutritive, and sustaining power, easiness
of digestion, and especially high delicious flavour. One trial
will establish it as a favourite beverage for breakfast, lun-
cheon, and a soothing refreshment after a late evening.

MARAVILLA COCOA for BREAKFAST.—
The "Globe" says:—"TAYLOR, BROTHERS'
MARAVILLA COCOA has achieved a thorough success,
and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire
solubility, a delicate aroma, and a rare concentration of the
purest elements of nutrition distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa
above all others. For homeopaths and invalids we could
not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage." Sold
in tin-lined packets only by all grocers, &c., throughout the
world.

OLD COINS for SALE.—Gold, Silver,
Copper, Saxon, English, Roman, Greek, &c. Lists
free. J. VERITY, Earlsheston, Dewsbury.

"FOR the BLOOD is the LIFE."—See
Deuteronomy, chap. xii., verse 23.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.

The GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER and RESTORER.
For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities,
cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and sores of all kinds,
it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

It Cures Old Sores,
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck,
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs,
Cures Blackheads, or Pimples on the Face,
Cures Scurvy Sores,
Cures Cancerous Ulcers,
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases,
Cures Glandular Swellings,
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter,
From whatever cause arising.

As this Mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted
free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution
of either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial
to test its value.

Thousands of Testimonials from all parts.
Sold in bottles, 2s. 3d. each, and in cases containing six
times the quantity, 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent
cure in the great majority of long-standing cases.—BY ALL
CHEMISTS AND PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS
throughout the United Kingdom and the world, or sent to
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The Burlington and Missouri-River Railroad Company
offers for Sale, at a Low Price, on For, Six, or Ten Years'
Credit, with interest at favourable rates, and in quantities to
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Full information in reference to the character and cost of
these Lands, and to the Rates of Passage by Steamship and
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person, at any of the offices of the Company in the United
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Emigrants.

Liverpool: 18, South Castle-street.

London: 25, Moorgate-street.

HAMILTON A. HILL, General Agent.

CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR.

Opiates, Narcotics, and Squills are too often invoked to
give relief in Coughs, Colds, and all Pulmonary Diseases.
Instead of such fallacious remedies, which yield momentary
relief at the expense of enfeebling the digestive organs, and
thus increasing that debility which lies at the root of the
malady, modern science points to CROSBY'S BALSAMIC
COUGH ELIXIR as the true remedy.

DR. ROOKE'S TESTIMONIAL.

Dr. Rooke, Scarborough, author of the "Anti-Lancet," says:—
"I have repeatedly observed how very rapidly and invari-
ably it subdued Cough, Pain, and Irritation of the Chest in
cases of Pulmonary Consumption, and I can, with the
greatest confidence, recommend it as a most valuable adjunct
to an otherwise strengthening treatment for this disease."

This medicine, which is free from opium and squills, not
only allays the local irritation, but improves digestion and
strengthens the constitution. Hence it is used with the
most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption,
Coughs, Influenza, Night Sweats of Consumption, Quinsy,
and all affections of the throat and chest.

Sold in bottles at 1s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each, by all
respectable chemists, and wholesale by Jas. M. Crosby,
Chemist, Scarborough.

* Invalids should read Crosby's Prize Treatise on "Dis-
eases of the Lungs and Air Vessels," a copy of which can be
had gratis of all Chemists.

DR. ROOKE'S ORIENTAL PILLS AND SOLAR ELIXIR.

These well-known family medicines have had a continually-
increasing sale throughout the United Kingdom and the
British Colonies since their first introduction in 1836, and are
especially noted for their strengthening and restorative pro-
perties. Hence their invariable success in the relief and cure
of Indigestion, Liver Complaints, Asthma and Bronchitis,
Pulmonary Consumption, Rheumatism, Gout, Scrofula,
General Debility, and all Diseases of the Nervous System,
whether arising from sedentary mode of life, unhealthy
occupation, insalubrious climate, or other cause whatsoever.

The Oriental Pills are sold in boxes at 1s. 1d. and 4s. 6d.
each. The Solar Elixir in bottles at 4s. 6d. and 11s. each.
Both to be obtained of all Chemists.

"DR. ROOKE'S ANTI-LANCET."

All who wish to preserve health and thus prolong life
should read Dr. Rooke's "Anti-Lancet," or "Handy-Guide
to Domestic Medicine," which can be had gratis from any
chemist, or post free from Dr. Rooke, Scarborough. Con-
sidering this book, the late eminent author Sheridan Knowles
observed:—"It will be an inestimable boon to every person
who can read and think."

The UNION BANK of LONDON and its BRANCHES, and also the BIRKBECK BANK, are prepared to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the REMAINING PORTION of this TRUST.

THE BIRKBECK PROPERTY INVESTMENT TRUST.

29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London.
AMOUNT £500,000.

Of which upwards of £100,000 have been privately subscribed, represented by Certificates, bearing 5 per cent. interest, of £100, £50, and £25 each, payable to bearer:

THE PRICE BEING

Class A, £88.....for the £100 Certificates,
Class B, £44.....for those of £50, and
Class C, £22.....for those of £25.
The whole paying about 25 13s. 6d. per cent. free of income-tax.

BANKERS.

Union Bank of London, Chancery-lane.
Birkbeck Bank, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

House and Shop Properties, when judiciously purchased and managed, are very remunerative. They not only produce an immediate return upon the capital invested, but they increase in value year by year; the precise amount depending on the nature of the properties and the locality in which they are situated.

According to the lengthened experience (nearly twenty-three years) of the directors of the Birkbeck Building Society (the largest in the United Kingdom), houses and shops in every part of London and its immediate suburbs have, in numerous instances, doubled in rental value within the last twenty-five years; the causes which have operated to produce this rise are still active and continuous. It is not rare, indeed, to find that a house which would have been deemed highly rented twenty years ago at £40 is, at the present day, considered cheaply rented at £80 or £90. In many cases rents have quadrupled in amount within the same period of time, and there appears to be no limit to the increase within a radius of about four miles from the General Post Office. In isolated localities, where rents have fallen, it will be found that there are special causes to account for the depreciation.

Notwithstanding these facts, there are few associations having for their object the investment of money in the purchase of houses and shops, and those existing are on a very limited scale. Building Societies, which are popularly supposed to buy and sell houses, do not act in a corporate capacity; they restrict their operations to advancing money to their members for this purpose, and each member acts for himself. In the purchase of a house or shop the member studies his own special wants and wishes, and perhaps finds that he has made an imprudent purchase. On the other hand, another member buys a house which by some fortuitous circumstance or the natural rise in value turns out to be a very lucrative investment. These are the opposite results of individual action. That the general results are favourable to the members as a body, the position of all well-managed Building Societies sufficiently proves, for they exhibit unmistakable signs of prosperity, and their shares bear a high premium. As an instance, the last annual report (the twenty-second) of the Birkbeck Building Society states that shares issued by it in 1863, on which (omitting fractions) £39 have been paid, are now worth £72; those issued in 1865, amount paid £34, are worth £52; while those issued in 1870, on which £11 only have been paid, are worth £15 at the present time.

These facts furnish sufficient evidence that house and shop property, when dealt with on a large scale, affords a safe and lucrative investment; but to ensure the most favourable terms the transactions must be on a wide basis—dealing with houses of all classes—as the means by which a fair profit can be secured. On this principle the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust will proceed—a principle somewhat analogous to that of an insurance office, where profit is made by multiplying its risks, and extending the area of its transactions.

The operations of the Trust will be to purchase houses and shops, with their fixtures, fittings, &c., in settled and improving localities in London and its suburbs. Arrangements have already been made, contingent upon the amount of the certificates taken up, to enter into possession of a considerable number of houses, so that the capital represented by the certificates may yield an immediate return; but in the event of the amount subscribed being in excess of the value of the properties taken over, and arranged to be purchased, the surplus will be temporarily invested in mortgages, or in readily convertible securities, yielding sufficient to pay the interest on the certificates.

The annual receipts from the rents of the houses, shops, and other properties purchased will be applied by the trustees, after deducting expenses, in paying interest on the certificates. The excess, together with the proceeds of properties which may be sold when favourable opportunities arise, will be applied as a sinking fund in repaying the certificates at par, by annual drawings, extending over a period of twenty-five years. A sum, varying in amount from one to five per cent., in value of the certificates, will be paid off annually. At the expiration of fifteen years from the date of the first drawing the holders of the certificates then undrawn will become entitled to the absolute reversion of the whole of the properties then belonging to the trust, subject to a deduction of one-tenth, as after noted. The trust will be finally closed after the 25th year, the properties sold, and the proceeds distributed, nine-tenths among the holders of the above-mentioned certificates, and the remaining tenth among the holders of the certificates of reversion, representing the certificates drawn during the first fifteen years of the trust.

The advantages of the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust may be thus summed up:

- (1.) Interest at the rate of 25 13s. 6d. per cent. on the amount subscribed, free of income-tax.
- (2.) A bonus of £12 per cent. by the repayment of capital at par.
- (3.) A rateable bonus of £10 per cent. on the value of the properties belonging to the Trust when it is finally closed; or
- (4.) An equal share in the properties possessed by the Trust at the end of the fifteenth year, on the terms and conditions set forth in the deed constituting the Trust.

The Trust will be under the management of the Directors of the old established Birkbeck Building Society, together with a council of certificate-holders, whose duties will be to audit the accounts of the Trust. In terms of the Deed of Trust it is provided that the members of the board shall receive no remuneration for their services until the annual produce arising from the Trust properties shall reach £25,000, being five per cent. on the amount to be raised. It is further provided that the expenses of management shall be limited to one per cent. on the amount to be raised under the Trust, while the preliminary expenses, including the stamp duty payable under the Act, are fixed at

one and a quarter per cent. Any further expenses will be borne by the promoters of the Trust.

The issue of the certificates, all payable to bearer, and yielding 25 per cent. interest on the nominal amount, will be in three classes, as follows: Class A for £100, costing £88; Class B for £50, costing £44; and Class C for £25, costing £22; thus realising about 25 13s. 6d. per cent. per annum on the amount paid, free of income-tax, with the additional advantage of the annual drawings and reversions.

Interest Coupons will be attached to each certificate, payable as after noted, and in addition a certificate of reversion entitling the holder to a share in the divisible surplus accruing to the Certificate-holders at the close of the Trust, or to receive a fixed sum at any time previously, in terms of the Deed of Trust.

Applications for certificates to be made in the form accompanying the Prospectus, and payments made as follows, viz.: Eight per cent. on the application, Ten per cent. on allotment, and the balance by instalments of Ten per cent. at intervals of three months, the first instalment after allotment being payable on March 31.

In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the certificates allotted represent a smaller amount than that applied for the surplus deposit will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. Subscribers may at any time after allotment anticipate the payment of their instalments, and will be allowed a discount at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum. The non-payment of any instalment will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Script certificates will be issued to subscribers after allotment, and will be exchanged for the certificates as early as possible after the last instalment is paid. Coupons for the payment of interest on the instalments will be attached to each script certificate, which interest will commence from the 31st of March, 1874 (being the date of payment of the first instalment after the allotment), and will be due on the 30th of September and the 31st of March in each year, and be payable at the Birkbeck Bank on the fourteenth day thereafter.

The drawings will take place in the presence of a notary public, in the month of December in each year, the first drawing being in December, 1875. The certificates drawn will be duly advertised, and be payable at par on the 1st of July following. An equal number in value of each class of certificates will participate in the annual drawings.

The Deed under which the Trust is constituted, together with Forms of the Certificates, may be seen at the Birkbeck Bank, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Certificates may be obtained of the Union Bank of London and its Branches, and also of the Birkbeck Bank, where Subscriptions will be received.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

London, 9th February, 1874.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE.

Having paid to your credit the sum of £....., being a deposit at the rate of 8 per cent. on Certificates of the nominal value of £....., I hereby request that you will allot to me Certificates of this amount in the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust; and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any lesser amount that may be allotted to me, and to pay the balance of the price at the rates and on the days set forth in the Prospectus of the Trust, subject to the conditions contained therein and in the deed constituting the Trust.

Name in full.....
Profession or Business.....
Residence.....

THE ANNUAL RECEIPTS of the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY EXCEED THREE MILLIONS.

FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS ready to be advanced by the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY on Freehold and Leasehold Securities, at FIVE and SIX PER CENT. INTEREST. For Fixed Terms, or Repayable by Easy Instalments.

HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE for TWO GUINEAS per MONTH, With immediate Possession and no Rent to Pay. Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

HOW TO PURCHASE A PLOT of LAND for FIVE SHILLINGS per month with IMMEDIATE POSSESSION, either for building or gardening purposes. Apply at the office of the BIRKBECK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

BIRKBECK BANK. ESTABLISHED 1831. 29 and 30, SOUTHAMPTON-BUILDINGS, CHANCERY-LANE.

Deposits received at Four per Cent. Interest. Current Accounts opened similar to the Joint Stock Banks, but without any stipulation as to amount of balance to be kept by the customer.

Cheque Books supplied. Purchases and Sales effected of English, Foreign, and Colonial Bonds, and advances made thereon.

Office hours from 10 till 4, on Mondays from 10 till 9, and on Saturdays from 10 till 2 o'clock.

A small Pamphlet containing full particulars may be obtained gratis, or sent post free on application to FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen-square, Bloomsbury W.C. Beds, from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—J. ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I had when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frome.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel par excellence."—J. K. KARCHER, Toronto, C.W.

Asthma.—AUBREE'S SPECIFIC.—The only medicine which effectually cures this malady (also Bronchitis) may now be obtained of Delisy, Davies, and Co., 1, Cecil-street, Strand, Sole Agents. Send Stamp for pamphlet.

TO the RADICAL ELECTORS of the TOWER HAMLETS.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to thank you for the support you have given me during the recent contest.

Whatever may have been the result of the poll, it is not for us to be disheartened. Remember that we have had almost to create a new party outside the old parties, and that after one week's work, without either canvassers or postal communication with electors, we polled close on 3,000 votes. Bear in mind, also, that majorities afford no test of the justice of a cause; if we believe in our cause our single thought should be—how to strengthen it.

It may be as well to state the causes of our defeat.

1. The profound ignorance and apathy concerning national affairs shown by a large portion of the electoral body, and consequently the total subordination of politics to petty immediate interests and personal feeling.
2. Want of organisation.
3. The virtual disfranchisement of the working class by the defective system of registration; by the time of polling, which seems expressly arranged to exclude working class votes; and by the fictitious lodger franchise.

It may be beyond our power to affect the first cause. All that we can do interim between now and the next election is incessantly to endeavour to rouse men to a religious sense of their political duty—that is to say, of their duty to their fellow creatures, and to shame them out of an apathy which is fatal to all progress.

Organisation would be unnecessary if political apathy did not exist; but where it does exist it constitutes the main element of success, and hence the success of the Conservative candidate. When no value is attached to votes they are to be obtained in proportion to the trouble which is taken in collecting them. The constituency should be immediately mapped out, district committees formed, and steps taken to insure the registration of voters.

It is to be hoped that the Moderate Liberals of the Tower Hamlets will, at the next election, carry into practice their theory of moderation, and accept the compromise we vainly offered this time. Let them recognise that Radical thought and working class feeling are entitled to share the representation, and we can then enter into a respectful alliance and recover the character of the constituency.

FREDK. A. MAXSE.

67, Cromwell-road, South Kensington, S.W.

TO the ELECTORS of the NORTHERN DIVISION of the WEST RIDING of YORKSHIRE.

GENTLEMEN,—

We hasten to return our sincere thanks for the honour you have conferred upon us in electing us as the Representatives of the Northern Division of the West Riding.

The majority by which we have been returned affords conclusive proof that this Division is true to its principles, and there is no Conservative reaction here.

We shall hope to repay your confidence by a careful attention to the great and varied interests of this important constituency.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

FREDERICK C. CAVENDISH.
MATHEW WILSON.

Central Committee Room, Bradford,
12th February, 1874.

TO THE ELECTORS OF EAST WORCESTERSHIRE.

GENTLEMEN,—

I regret that a single day should elapse between the poll and the public expression of my hearty thanks for all services rendered me in the late contest.

They are due, and I most gratefully tender them, to the Electors and others who, in so many large meetings, in all parts of the Division, accepted with almost complete unanimity the candidature of one comparatively unknown, and who listened with the most earnest attention to my remarks on the political questions embraced in my address, and especially on the Contagious Diseases Acts, which I desire to see repealed, as being immoral and mischievous, an invasion of our Constitution, and an outrage on humanity.

I feel very deeply the kindness of some Electors who supported me on account of my advocacy of the repeal of these laws, though differing with me to some extent on other political questions.

My thanks are due to the Electors who put me in nomination, to many friends who promptly and spontaneously gave me help in my meetings, to each member of my numerous committees, central and local, to all who assisted in marshalling and bringing up voters, and, above all, to the 2,831 Electors who recorded their votes in my favour.

Nothing was more gratifying than to find that in many of the different polling districts my local committee and those of Mr. Lytton had spontaneously made themselves one, in order to secure victory for both the Liberal candidates. We are defeated, but I am not discouraged. The Conservatives have triumphed, but my committee feel with me that we are not responsible for the reverse sustained by the Liberal cause. But for the epidemic of Toryism now passing over the land, East Worcestershire might have returned two Liberal candidates. Let us be united next time, and victory shall be ours. Meantime, I emphatically thank the Electors who stood firmly by Liberal principles in the present contest.

It only remains for us patiently to wait for, and quietly endure, the brief reign of a Tory Administration. The Priests, the Publicans, and the Plutocrats, supported by the privileged classes, have gained an ascendancy much to be deplored; but the cause of the people and the nation shall assuredly become uppermost again.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR ALBRIGHT.

Marlemont, Edgbaston, February 14, 1874.

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